1	TOWN OF WESTFIELD
2	BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
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5	IN RE : PUBLIC HEARING : :
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10	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS Monday, March 14, 2022
11	Municipal Building 425 East Broad Street
12	Westfield, New Jersey Commencing at 7:30 p.m.
13	*Meeting held virtually via Zoom
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2	BEFORE:
3	FRANK FUSARO, CHAIRMAN
4	CHRIS MASCIALE, VICE-CHAIRMAN
5	ALLYSON HROBLAK, MEMBER
6	ELDY PAVON, MEMBER
7	MATT SONTZ, MEMBER
8	CAROL MOLNAR, MEMBER
9	CHARLES GELINAS, FIRST ALTERNATE
10	SAMUEL REISEN, SECOND ALTERNATE
11	
12	DON SAMMET, ZONING OFFICIAL/PLANNER
13	
14	APPEARANCES:
15	WELLS, JAWORSKI & LIEBMAN, LLP
16	BY: KATHRYN J. RAZIN, ESQ. Attorney for the BOARD
17	HEHL & HEHL
18	BY: STEPHEN HEHL, ESQ. Attorney for the APPLICANTS DIPIETRO AND
19	FERRARO
20	
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2	PROCEEDINGS
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4	CHAIRMAN FUSARO: This is a meeting
5	of the Zoning Board of Adjustment for the Town of
6	Westfield. If everyone could please rise for the
7	Pledge of Allegiance.
8	(Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance
9	was recited.)
10	CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. This
11	is a regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of
12	Adjustment of the Town of Westfield at which
13	formal action may be taken. The public will have
14	the opportunity to be heard as the Board considers
15	these applications. Adequate notice of this
16	meeting was provided by posting on the bulletin
17	board of the Town Hall, mailing of notices to the
18	Westfield Leader, the Newark Star Ledger, and
19	filing with the town clerk of the Town of
20	Westfield all in accordance with the requirements
21	of the Open Public Meeting Act.
22	Katherine Razin, the Board Attorney,
23	will give a brief statement explaining the Board
24	of Adjustments powers, purpose, and criteria for
25	granting variances.

- 1 MS. RAZIN: Good evening. Last
- 2 month, we talked about the fact that the Board can
- 3 grant appeals of the Zoning Officer's decision and
- 4 also interpretations. And so, I wanted to also
- 5 advise the types of D Variances that were subject
- to the Board's jurisdiction. There're actually
- 7 six types of D variances which are all in addition
- 8 to the C-type Variances. There's the D-1
- 9 Variance, which is a use variance with a type of
- 10 underlying use. There's a D-2 Variance, which
- 11 expands a nonconforming use or structure. A D-3
- 12 Variance for a conditional use. A D-4 Variance
- for FAR, floor area ratio. A D-5 Variance, which
- 14 is and increate in the permitted density. And a
- 15 D-6 Height Variance. And those are all under the
- 16 70-D Section and under the Board's purview as part
- of the release that can be granted.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 19 Ms. Razin. Mr. Secretary, can you please call the
- 20 roll?
- MR. SAMMET: Certainly.
- 22 Chair Fusaro.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Here.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Here.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- 2 MR. MASCIALE: Here.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- 4 MS. MOLNAR: Here.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Here.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- 8 MR. SONTZ: Here.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Here.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Reisen.
- MR. REISEN: Present.
- MR. SAMMET: And Mr. Cohen is absent
- 14 this evening.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 16 Mr. Sammet. We are going to -- before we get into
- 17 the memorialization of the resolutions from the
- last meeting, I just want to announce one slight
- 19 adjustment to our modifications to our agenda.
- 20 The agenda that was published stated that we would
- 21 be reviewing the draft of our 2021 Annual Report
- 22 at the end of the meeting. However, we are going
- 23 to move that up to the beginning of the meeting.
- We'll try to keep it as short and brief as
- 25 possible knowing that we have a full agenda this

- 1 evening. So, I just wanted to make that
- 2 announcement, number one.
- 3 Number two, let's move on to the
- 4 approval of the Minutes from the last meeting. I
- 5 believe the Board Members all received the actual
- 6 181-page transcript of our meeting of February 14.
- 7 Does anyone have any questions or
- 8 modifications to that transcript?
- 9 MR. MASCIALE: No.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Seeing none, may I
- 11 have a motion to approve the Minutes from the
- Board meeting of February 14?
- MR. MASCIALE: So moved.
- MS. MOLNAR: Second.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Seconded,
- 16 Ms. Molnar. All in favor?
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Seeing none, the
- 19 Minutes are approved.
- 20 Next is the memorialization of
- 21 resolutions. We have one resolution from our
- January 31, 2022, meeting, as well as, I believe,
- five resolutions from our February 14, 2022,
- 24 meeting. So, Mr. Sammet, I will turn the floor
- over to you for the approval of the resolutions.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: We have the first on
- 2 your agenda is the resolution for 918 South Avenue
- 3 West. Is there a motion to approve this
- 4 resolution?
- 5 MR. MASCIALE: So moved.
- MR. SAMMET: By Mr. Masciale. And a
- 7 second?
- MS. HROBLAK: Second.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Seconded by
- 10 Ms. Hroblak. And I'll read the eligible members
- 11 off the resolution, itself. Chair Fusaro.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Cohen is absent.
- 18 Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: And Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Resolution is

- 1 approved. Thank you.
- 2 MR. SAMMET: The next resolution is
- 3 for Tanya Brubaker at 920 Irving Avenue. Is there
- 4 a motion to approve this resolution?
- 5 MR. MASCIALE: So moved.
- MR. SAMMET: By Mr. Masciale. Do we
- 7 have a second?
- MR. SONTZ: Second.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Seconded by Mr. Sontz.
- 10 Chair Fusaro.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- 16 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Cohen is absent.
- 17 Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: And Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- 23 MR. SAMMET: Your third resolution
- 24 this evening is that for Francis Scott Ferraro and
- 25 Angela Wilkos at 712 Oak Avenue. Do I have a

- 1 motion to approve this resolution?
- MR. MASCIALE: So moved.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: By Mr. Masciale. Do I
- 4 have a second?
- 5 (Crosstalk.)
- MR. REISEN: Second.
- 7 MS. HROBLAK: Second.
- 8 MR. SAMMET: I'm sorry. I didn't
- 9 catch. Who was the second?
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Reisen.
- 11 (Crosstalk.)
- 12 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Reisen, second.
- No, Mr. Reisen isn't here. Oh, yes, he is.
- 14 Excuse me.
- 15 MR. REISEN: Yeah, I am. I seconded
- 16 it if I'm eligible.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: I'm sorry, Mr. Reisen,
- 18 I don't see you on the list of --
- MS. RAZIN: Because he was an
- 20 alternate, I think, right, that night.
- MR. REISEN: Yeah, I was.
- MR. GELINAS: I'll second.
- MR. MASCIALE: He can second,
- technically.
- MR. SAMMET: Can he second?

- 1 MS. RAZIN: Not -- I don't think if
- 2 he's eligible to vote on it. I don't think he
- 3 can.
- 4 MR. SAMMET: So second by
- 5 Mr. Gelinas, then. Chair Fusaro.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- 11 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Cohen is absent.
- 12 Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- 18 MR. SAMMET: The next resolution is
- 19 that of Kenneth Band, 301 Vernon Place. Is there
- a motion to approve this resolution?
- MR. MASCIALE: So moved.
- MR. SAMMET: So moved by
- 23 Mr. Masciale. Is there a second?
- MR. GELINAS: Second.
- MR. SAMMET: Second by Mr. Gelinas.

- 1 Roll call. Chairman Fusaro.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- 4 MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Cohen is absent.
- 6 Mr. Sontz.
- 7 MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- 8 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- 9 MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- MS. MOLNAR: You skipped Molnar.
- 11 Wait a minute, you skipped Molnar.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar, I didn't
- see your name of eligible members on this
- 14 resolution.
- MS. RAZIN: That might have been my
- 16 error.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Molnar and Hroblak
- were opposed.
- MS. RAZIN: Oh, right. That's why.
- 20 MR. SAMMET: The next resolution is
- 21 that of Thomas and Stacy Shepherd at 440 Topping
- 22 Hill Road. Is there a motion to approve this
- 23 resolution?
- MR. MASCIALE: So moved.
- MS. MOLNAR: Second.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale, second by
- 2 Ms. Molnar.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 4 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- 5 MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- 7 MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- 8 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Cohen is absent
- 9 this evening. Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- 15 MR. SAMMET: And Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: Your last resolution is
- 18 that of Ralph Capasso at 620 Lenox Avenue. Is
- there a motion to approve this resolution?
- MR. MASCIALE: So moved.
- MS. MOLNAR: Second.
- MR. SAMMET: I heard Mr. Masciale
- made a motion, and the second was?
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Molnar.
- 25 Ms. Molnar.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- 2 Chair Fusaro.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 4 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- 5 MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- 7 MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- 8 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Cohen, again, is
- 9 absent. Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 19 Mr. Sammet. The next order of business is the
- 20 withdrawal of any applications. There is one
- 21 application this evening that is being withdrawn.
- That is Application #21-38, PNC Bank. The address
- is 1 Lincoln Plaza, Westfield, New Jersey. That
- 24 application --
- MS. MOLNAR: Was any reason given?

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I'm sorry?
- MS. MOLNAR: Any reason given?
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: No. No reason was
- 4 given. They withdrew the application. Should
- 5 they want to reapply, they'll start the process
- 6 anew and get back in line.
- 7 Are there any applications that were
- 8 carried? There are no applications that were
- 9 carried this evening. There is one request for a
- 10 time extension, and that is from Ms. Lori Spector,
- 11 132 Marlboro Street. Is Ms. Specter on,
- 12 Mr. Sammet?
- MR. SAMMET: She is Mr. Chairman. I
- 14 can allow her to speak.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Spector, if you
- 17 unmute your microphone, we should be able to hear
- 18 you.
- MS. SPECTOR: Can you hear me?
- MR. SAMMET: We can, yes. Thank
- 21 you.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We can hear you.
- 23 Welcome. Place raise your right hand and I'll
- swear you in.
- 25 LORI SPECTOR, having been duly

- 1 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Tell us about your
- 3 extension.
- 4 MS. SPECTOR: I have an extension
- 5 request for a variance to build a garage attached
- 6 to my house. I'm still saving money for that and
- 7 materials have only gone up in cost. So,
- 8 unfortunately, it's yet another year. But I'd
- 9 like to request an extension.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Do you think that
- 11 a one-year extension should be sufficient? I
- 12 assume that your plans are to get started within a
- 13 year sometime during the month of March 2023. Is
- 14 that sufficient?
- 15 MS. SPECTOR: That's the intention.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 17 Any Board Members have any questions for
- 18 Ms. Spector?
- MR. MASCIALE: I do. We have given
- 20 extensions on this in the past, and I fully
- 21 understand the difficulties, especially with the
- 22 recent years on here. But could you just restate
- 23 that the conditions haven't changed? I think on
- the original there was plenty of room for a
- 25 garage. I just want to make sure that there's

- 1 been no changes to the property. That it remains
- 2 in the condition that the Board previously
- 3 approved it.
- 4 MS. SPECTOR: Yes, that's correct.
- 5 It's in the same condition as when I originally
- 6 applied.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: 2019. We granted
- 8 one extension. The approval was initially granted
- 9 in March of 2019. A one-year extension was
- 10 granted in March of 2020, and now one additional
- 11 year is being requested until March of 2023.
- MS. SPECTOR: Yes. We've gone ahead
- and priced out with various contractors. So we've
- just been in the process of saving at this point.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: No problem.
- 16 Understood. We thank you for appearing. Any
- 17 Board Members have any other questions or
- 18 comments? Seeing none, can I have a motion on the
- 19 floor?
- 20 MR. MASCIALE: I'll make a motion to
- 21 grant the extension for another year.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Motion made by
- 23 Mr. Masciale. Do I have a second?
- MR. GELINAS: Second.
- MS. PAVON: Second.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Second by
- 2 Mr. Gelinas. He beat you to the punch, Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Nice CJ. Nice.
- 4 MR. GELINAS: Sorry about that Eldy,
- 5 you get the next one.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: You've got to be
- 7 quick with the unmute button. Mr. Sammet, please
- 8 call the roll.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Chair Fusaro.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Reisen.
- MR. REISEN: Yes.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much,

- 1 Don. As I mentioned earlier, before we get into
- 2 the applications, I want to just briefly discuss
- 3 the annual report which we're in the process of
- 4 compiling. The annual report by the Board is
- 5 prepared every year and sent over to the town
- 6 council for their review. They'll see our
- 7 conclusions, our recommendations, etcetera. I've
- 8 received several comments from several Board
- 9 Members. I had asked everyone individually to
- 10 please review it and get back to me with any
- 11 comments, revisions, conclusions, recommendations,
- 12 etcetera. Basically, I'm going to summarize what
- I believe everyone is trying to say. And then
- 14 what I would do is -- or what I would request --
- is that I will forward these to Don, and he will
- 16 incorporate them into a revision and send it out
- 17 to the Board. We will be able to review it during
- 18 the upcoming month and, hopefully, if all goes as
- 19 planned, approve the report at our April meeting.
- Just so that to remind everyone, this will be the
- 21 last Zoom meeting that we have, hopefully,
- forever, but certainly for a while. The next
- 23 meeting, our April meeting, will be in-person at
- 24 Town Hall.
- 25 Getting into a couple of the

- 1 comments that I've received, and again, they
- 2 basically are all along the same lines. One of
- 3 them that everyone has commented on is on Page 6
- 4 of the report, it basically states how many
- 5 applications we've heard, how many were approved,
- 6 how many were denied, and the type of application
- 7 whether they were C or D Variances. There was a
- 8 comment to if we could possibly include another
- 9 column in that chart which basically would show
- 10 how many applications were approved with
- 11 conditions and/or how many applications were
- 12 approved after the Board had requested some
- 13 changes -- or I should say recommended some
- 14 changes -- where the applicants actually went
- 15 back, took the Board's comments to heart, made the
- 16 suggestions that we had commented on, and then
- 17 came back and did receive an approval. Everyone
- 18 seems to be in agreement that we should have some
- sort of reference to that in the report.
- 20 The other item that -- and we've
- 21 been dealing with this for a number of years, and
- we usually put this in our conclusions and
- 23 recommendations section. I don't really know how
- far we can go or can't go with it, but it appears
- 25 that most of the applications that we hear

- 1 throughout the year have to do with the RS-6 Zone,
- 2 which is the smallest zone that we have in the
- 3 ordinance. Being that the last arsenal or being
- 4 that the homes that are being built nowadays are
- 5 larger, we are constantly getting variance
- 6 requests from residential properties that are in
- 7 the RS-6 Zone. So we had mentioned to the council
- 8 the past several years that I'm aware of, if not
- 9 longer, that perhaps that RS-6 zoning should be
- 10 reviewed and some modifications made to it with
- 11 respect to perhaps some of the coverages and/or
- 12 setbacks. So that would reduce the number of
- applications that we see with respect to the RS-6
- 14 Zone.
- The other item, which again, was
- 16 mentioned in quite a few of the comments that were
- 17 returned to me had to do with stormwater. As
- 18 everyone knows, stormwater is a large issue not
- only in town but, basically, across the United
- 20 States as climate change is taking effect. We
- 21 have requested or mentioned to the Engineering
- 22 Department and to the Town Council that some
- 23 serious consideration be given to some of these
- 24 applications with respect to stormwater runoff.
- 25 As you know, a lot of our applications that come

- 1 before us have to do with coverage. Increased
- 2 coverage, obviously, increases runoff. And if it
- 3 continues at the current rate or is exacerbated as
- 4 people request larger and larger homes with more
- 5 and more coverage, the stormwater situation is
- only going to get worse. As you know, the Town
- 7 has put together the WIRC, which is the Westfield
- 8 Infrastructure Resilience Committee. They are
- 9 reviewing these stormwater recommendations and
- 10 suggestions in town. All the infrastructure, but
- one of them obviously being stormwater. Perhaps,
- 12 and again, Don, I don't know -- feel free to jump
- in on any of the comments -- I don't know if the
- 14 town has or if the engineering department can
- 15 compile a map of the town which shows some of the
- 16 flood-prone areas. If we were to have that
- 17 perhaps when applications are before us in those
- 18 areas, we can certainly look at them a little
- 19 closer to see if any mitigation to the stormwater
- 20 can be brought about, etcetera. That's was
- 21 something that I believe we would put in a
- recommendation to the council and perhaps, that
- 23 can be incorporated.
- In addition, one Board Member,
- 25 actually Allyson, had mentioned that perhaps we

- 1 can speak to the chair or some people that are on
- 2 the WIRC and ask that one of our Board Members be
- 3 liaison to that committee. I believe that would
- 4 be helpful just to kind of see what their thoughts
- 5 are. Obviously, we deal with infrastructure as it
- 6 pertains to all these applications, so perhaps we
- 7 can request that one of us be named the liaison on
- 8 that committee. I will discuss it with Don and
- 9 some of the council members. I don't know how
- 10 many members are on that committee. I do know who
- 11 the Chairwoman is and I can certainly reach out to
- 12 her as well.
- I believe those are the bulk of the
- comments other than the obvious that the wrong
- 15 date was on there, which Don has already changed
- from 2020 to 2021. That's just a typographical
- issue that we dealt with. Any other comments --
- MS. MOLNAR: I had made a request.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I'm sorry, yes.
- 20 Carol made a comment with respect to parking in
- 21 the front yard.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes. About 10 years
- ago, my neighbor adjusted his driveway so that it
- 24 encroached on his front yard. So he had to get a
- 25 variance to allow that parking in the front yard.

- 1 And then last year, the new house that was built
- where the Gate house burnt down, they put pavers
- 3 in the front yard to let a car park there, and he
- 4 was told to remove the pavers because parking is
- 5 not allowed in the front yard. So I think we
- 6 should tighten up our language regarding
- 7 front-yard parking to add clarity. Because last
- 8 month, we allowed a little -- someone to create
- 9 parking in the front yard. So to me, it's not
- 10 clear. The statute must not be clear.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We'll certainly
- 12 reread that portion of the zoning ordinance, and I
- 13 can discuss it with Don as far as clarity goes. I
- 14 know that I believe the last application that
- 15 you're referring to that allowed parking in the
- 16 front yard basically one of the reasons was the
- 17 garage was forward and that the parking space
- 18 would be in front of that garage which basically
- 19 put it in the front yard. I believe we had --
- MS. MOLNAR: It's literally in front
- of the house. The parking spot was an extra spot
- in front of the house. So I think the application
- 23 seems to be an inconsistent system. The Gate
- house had to remove these pavers because they
- 25 couldn't have a parking spot, yet we allowed these

- folks. So maybe we have to add clarity somehow.
- MR. SAMMET: I agree. The ordinance
- 3 language needs to be tightened up. I don't think
- 4 -- well, I'll speak for myself -- I'm not a fan of
- 5 parking spaces placed in front of the home just
- 6 like you're stating happened, Ms. Molnar, 10 years
- 7 ago when the person needed to get a variance.
- 8 I've already looked at some other language to try
- 9 and fix that; if you will.
- 10 MS. MOLNAR: Thank you so much.
- 11 Wonderful. Thank you.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: So I think those
- were all the comments. I kind of summarized them.
- 14 If I missed any others, please, Board Members,
- 15 feel free to express them at this time. And if
- 16 not, Don and I will review them. I'll have Don
- incorporate them into the report and, hopefully,
- 18 send it out to the rest of the Board for their
- 19 review. And if we can get it voted on next
- 20 meeting, great. If we have to push it to May,
- it's not a problem. Anybody else comments about
- the January report? I see none. Let's move on.
- The first application for this
- 24 evening is Stan -- it's a continuation of an
- 25 application that we heard months ago from Stan and

- 1 Jessica Kopec, 119 South Scotch Plains Avenue.
- 2 Applicant is seeking approval to construct a
- 3 bedroom over the existing one-story family room
- 4 off the rear and finishing the balance of the
- 5 attic with compliant dormers as well as attaching
- 6 the garage to the existing dwelling and the
- 7 mudroom connector contrary to the following
- 8 sections of the Westfield Land Use Ordinance:
- 9 Section 12.04F where the building coverage
- permitted is 20% or 1,373.33-square feet
- 3,600-square feet max, and proposed is 23.02% or
- 12 1,575.03-square feet, and; Section 11.09E-6 where
- minimum side yard setback right side permitted is
- 14 10-feet and proposed is 2.44-feet.
- 15 MS. RAZIN: Frank, can I just
- 16 interrupt for one second? I believe -- and I
- 17 apologize for interrupting -- I believe that
- 18 Mr. Sammet was only sworn in for the last hearing,
- 19 and I just want to make sure -- I'm going to swear
- 20 him in for tonight and ongoing before we continue.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes, please.
- DON SAMMET, having been duly sworn,
- was sworn into office as ZONING OFFICIAL/PLANNER
- 24 for 2022:
- 25 MS. RAZIN: Thank you. I apologize.

- 1 I just want to make sure we're set with that.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 3 Ms. Razin. Yes, we did discuss that, and I
- 4 apologize I missed it.
- 5 Mr. and Mrs. Kopec, are they -- I
- 6 see Mr. Kopec right there. That's great. I see
- 7 Mr. Ralph. I'm assuming that since both of you
- 8 testified before I'd like to remind you that
- 9 you're both still under oath. I thank you for
- 10 submitting the revised plans. Please tell us
- 11 about your application.
- MR. RALPH: Good evening and thank
- 13 you for having us back. I will be rather brief
- 14 tonight. I think our changes are pretty
- 15 self-evident, but I do want to put on the record
- what we've revised and how we took the commentary
- 17 into account. I'd like to share my screen. It
- 18 will be the same as was submitted, so no need for
- 19 exhibits. You should have a seven-page
- 20 architectural with the revision date 2/24/22.
- Do you agree with that?
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- MR. RALPH: And you should have a
- 24 single-page survey with spot elevations added to
- 25 it.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Correct. From
- 2 Harbor Consultants.
- 3 MR. RALPH: Excellent. So I'll be
- 4 speaking to those and, again, I'll just run
- 5 through with what was revised and why, and happy
- 6 to answer questions. Last hearing, we had a
- 7 little bit of feedback at the end with the rear
- 8 yard neighbor with some concerns about drainage
- 9 and water. And at the request of the Board, we
- 10 engaged Harbor Consultants to provide what I have
- 11 up on my screen now which was a spot elevation
- survey added to the property survey that we had.
- 13 And what you'll find here is that the house itself
- is a bit of a high point on the lot with 132,
- 15 131 1/2, 131.4.
- So the house, itself, sits at a
- 17 plateau as well, but it's back, and it drains in
- 18 all directions away from the house. We do have
- 19 what I was hoping which is we have pitch towards
- the street as we drop down to 131 at the sidewalk
- 21 and the street, that's Scotch Plains Ave. That
- 22 was good. And we see what was testified to by the
- rear neighbor that we taper down from 131 to 130,
- 24 129, and by the time we arrive at the neighbor's
- 25 property, we're 128. I will also note that they

- 1 took this shot on each of the neighbors as well.
- 2 And you'll actually see that all of the neighbors
- 3 are higher than the rear yard neighbor. So the
- 4 data does show that there is a low spot there, and
- 5 we'll also testify that we are not the sole
- 6 contributor. And, hopefully, you see that our
- 7 revisions actually improve the condition. That's
- 8 an explanation of this data that you have.
- 9 In terms of the architectural
- 10 revisions, they're relatively minor. And I'll go
- 11 to the floor plan page itself on A-4. And we made
- 12 some notes and revisions here. So what did we
- 13 change? Well, I did hear a comment about seeing
- if we could reduce the coverage. We took that
- 15 seriously. And while it was not a very large
- reduction, we did reduce the mudroom enough by
- 17 30-square feet that our coverage variance request
- is now 22.54%. So we were previously asking
- 19 23.02, we are now asking 22.54%. I figured as we
- were in the revision cycle, we might as well
- 21 tighten up at your request.
- 22 And then the major change with the
- garage you'll see we added an elevation note. My
- 24 proposal which I was not able to connect with the
- 25 township engineer, but I would be happy to subject

- our final plans to his approval as a condition,
- 2 but our strategy here was to actually raise the
- 3 slab height of our proposed garage since it is new
- 4 to, approximately, 132.5-feet. Such that, when we
- 5 install a new driveway on the property from the
- 6 garage to the curb, we can achieve pitch to Scotch
- 7 Plains. And that was what we had represented we
- 8 hoped to do. And I feel that the spot elevations
- 9 we received show that we can do it. So again,
- 10 basic change here, elevating the attached garage
- 11 structure by a little over a foot from what we had
- originally planned to be the elevation. That
- provided less steps required to the dwelling. So
- we could tighten up and optimize the mudroom
- 15 addition plan. And you'll see the configuration
- 16 of the stairs changed from the prior version. And
- 17 again, we pulled in that square footage to respect
- 18 the request for reduction.
- 19 And the only other thing I'll state
- 20 here is that we had stated last time, but I'll say
- it again for the sake of the Board, if you were to
- 22 approve this, we would take all of the roof area
- above the master and the roof area above the
- 24 mudroom and the garage, and we would work such
- 25 that the gutters would flow towards the front of

- 1 the garage addition and would discharge to the
- 2 driveway. And then, in redoing the driveway and
- 3 the grading around it, we have the opportunity to
- 4 take all of that stormwater to Scotch Plains Ave.
- 5 And I would maintain that's a relatively vast
- 6 improvement on the existing drainage pattern that
- 7 is there today. And that is my very brief summary
- 8 and I'm happy the answer any questions.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 10 Mr. Ralph. In reviewing the revised plans that
- 11 you submitted, I see that -- and just for the
- 12 record, the way I interpret the current elevations
- 13 -- as it stands right now, the current driveway,
- 14 the entire current driveway, drains toward the
- 15 back of the property. The front-most elevation is
- 16 131.6, and the rear of the driveway right before
- 17 the garage is 129.7. There's an approximate
- 18 2-foot drop. So that entire driveway currently is
- draining towards the rear of the property, and
- 20 certainly, in my opinion, contributing to some
- 21 water runoff in the rear yard, accumulation in the
- rear yard. As you stated in your revised plan,
- 23 since that existing garage is being removed, that
- 24 will certainly create some additional lawn area
- 25 that will absorb some additional stormwater

- 1 runoff. The new garage is being constructed where
- 2 the current driveway is, and as you mentioned,
- 3 your proposed grades that are shown on the revised
- 4 plans that we received would have the driveway or
- 5 will have the driveway draining towards Scotch
- 6 Plains Avenue.
- 7 I believe that removing the garage
- 8 creating some additional impervious coverage, and
- 9 simultaneously regrading the driveway so that it
- drains towards Scotch Plains Avenue, and
- 11 connecting the downspouts to also drain towards
- 12 Scotch Plains Avenue will certainly help the
- condition along the rear of the property. I see
- 14 that the drain we had originally asked, looking at
- 15 my notes, we had asked for an elevation of that
- 16 lawn drain which is there. I see that that's
- 17 128.4. While it is slightly higher by a couple of
- 18 inches, I think 4-inches from the neighbor's
- 19 property in the back, it is certainly lower than
- 20 everything else around it including both neighbors
- 21 to the right, to the left, as well as some of the
- 22 additional neighbors along the back.
- So I thank you for making those
- 24 revisions. And I thank you for also shrinking
- 25 that mudroom down albeit half of 1-percent, every

- 1 little bit counts. So thank you for that. Does
- 2 anyone on the Board have any questions for
- 3 Mr. Ralph?
- 4 MS. MOLNAR: Yeah, I have one
- 5 question. About the chimney. A lot of the new
- 6 homes today don't seem to have chimneys, but this
- 7 seems to have a big, square chimney box on the
- 8 left side of the house. Is there any reason for
- 9 that?
- MR. RALPH: You know, that preceded
- 11 me. So I can't answer that with any specificity
- 12 for you.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I believe that's
- 14 existing.
- 15 MS. MOLNAR: Pre-existing. So with
- the renovations, you won't convert it?
- MR. RALPH: No plans to alter that,
- 18 nope.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: That chimney, I
- 20 would venture to guess if it was existing with the
- 21 house would probably contain flues in it for the
- 22 existing heating system. So it certainly can't be
- 23 eliminated due to that. Okay. That's great.
- MS. MOLNAR: One other question.
- 25 Did you look at any way to reduce the coverage

- 1 even more other than the mudroom?
- MR. RALPH: Yeah, we certainly did.
- 3 And our feeling was that, you know, the garage is
- 4 at its minimum size, the master achieves what it
- 5 needs to achieve, and the mudroom, as I said, we
- 6 kind of optimized down to its fine size. I felt
- 7 that anything else would be counterproductive to
- 8 the project as a whole.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 10 Mr. Ralph. Any other Board Members have any
- 11 questions for Mr. Ralph?
- 12 MS. HROBLAK: I have a couple. Was
- there any consideration given to discharging part
- of the runoff onto the front lawn?
- 15 MR. RALPH: Just so that I'm
- answering you clearly. Are you talking about when
- 17 we do like the dormers and the attic work? What
- specifically are you thinking of?
- MS. HROBLAK: I'm thinking about any
- 20 additional runoff that's created. Was there any
- 21 consideration as opposed to dumping it all out on
- 22 Scotch Plains? By raising the garage floor, could
- 23 you send some down --
- MR. RALPH: I understand. I
- 25 understand.

- 1 MS. HROBLAK: -- the existing
- 2 leaders to the front?
- MR. RALPH: I would think that our
- 4 objective, and probably part of the engineering
- 5 review, would be that the driveway cross-pitches
- and that cross-pitch could be certainly towards
- our property, the subject property, and not our
- 8 neighbor. So I think that that could be readily
- 9 achieved even with what we've put before you, that
- 10 this section of the driveway would be the lower
- 11 section so that it's flowing towards Scotch Plains
- 12 and across the yard. I think that's a great
- 13 suggestion.
- 14 MS. HROBLAK: Are there any roof
- 15 leaders on the other side of the house that could
- 16 discharge some?
- MR. RALPH: That, yeah. The intent
- 18 with this side of the house, they do currently
- just splash to the yard. That's correct.
- 20 MS. HROBLAK: So if there's a
- 21 possible way to redirect some of the addition, you
- 22 know?
- 23 MR. RALPH: Definitely. Yeah. We
- 24 want to try to avoid regrading the whole property,
- 25 but I think anything that's being touched by the

- 1 excavation in the driveway is fair game to
- 2 mitigate on-site.
- MS. HROBLAK: My other question is:
- 4 Will you be containing the driveway within a solid
- 5 curb in order to prevent it from going laterally?
- 6 Whereas you're going to have a garage floor at
- 7 132, but the grade next to it is, you know, 129
- 8 right now. I'm not sure how much you can actually
- 9 raise that right next to it. Some of it is going
- 10 to try to flow laterally in the back.
- 11 MR. RALPH: That's fair. The garage
- is happening at this corner that's 130.09, it's
- almost 131, and this is 131.1 here. So when we
- redo the driveway, I think that we'll be pretty
- 15 good. I don't think it's a massive change to
- 16 grade, but I also don't believe that the applicant
- would object to that side getting some curbing,
- 18 albeit subtle, just so that the drainage pattern
- is as we discussed.
- 20 MS. HROBLAK: Right. Okay. Even if
- it's like a smooth, asphalt transition up.
- MR. RALPH: Exactly. Right.
- 23 Exactly. A little turn-up. I have no objection
- 24 at all to that.
- MS. HROBLAK: Thank you.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Any other Board
- 2 Members? Seeing none, does anyone from the public
- 3 have any questions for Mr. Ralph? If so, please
- 4 virtually raise your hand, and Mr. Sammet will
- 5 allow you into the meeting.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Fahy. Mr. Fahy, if
- 7 you unmute your mic, we should be able to hear you
- 8 now.
- 9 MR. FAHY: Good evening, ladies and
- 10 gentlemen.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Good evening,
- 12 Mr. Fahy. I believe we swore you in at the last
- meeting. I just want to remind you that you're
- still under oath. Please proceed.
- 15 MR. FAHY: Yes, sir. Just a quick
- 16 question. I think -- and I can't remember -- but
- 17 I think there're four drains that are on the
- 18 Kopec's property that run into our system and then
- 19 discharge onto Hazel. My question was: What do
- 20 they intend to do with those four drains? I'm
- 21 assuming two of them will be disconnected when
- they move the garage because two of them are on
- 23 the garage -- on that side of the driveway. My
- question is what do they plan to do with those
- once they disconnect them?

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1
                   CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Ralph, I see
 2
      that the plan -- survey that was given to us by
 3
      Harbor Consultants shows the one-yard drain in the
      upper left-hand corner. I'm assuming that
 5
      Mr. Fahy is referring to the trench drain which is
 6
      currently located in the front of the garage as
      the other drains. That one is being eliminated
 7
 8
      because the going is to going be there. However,
 9
      I believe your proposed -- looking at the proposed
10
      plan -- is there, I guess there's no need for a
      trench drain in front of the new garage because
11
12
      the driveway is going to be pitched away from the
13
      garage.
14
                   MR. RALPH:
                               That's correct.
15
      not need to incorporate one there. And there're
16
      two other incidental drains that are near the
17
      garage that we haven't specifically -- I don't
18
      know that Mr. and Mrs. Kopec had talked about
19
      abandoning them, specifically. I believe that we
20
      were intending to maintain the grading and the
21
      existing drainage systems as they were at the rear
22
      of the property, and just return this to greenery.
      And as you stated, no need to replace the trench
23
24
      drain. So again, I don't believe there's any
25
      removal or abandoning of any drainage systems
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- 1 except for the trench drain which is mitigated by
- 2 the new drainage pattern.
- 3 MR. FAHY: I would say I don't think
- 4 the survey is entirely accurate. There's one
- 5 drain by the tree at the rear of the property.
- 6 There's also another drain there that does not
- 7 show on this survey. But to the best of my
- 8 recollection, there are two other ones. One is on
- 9 the down leader on the garage on the corner that's
- 10 marked as 129.4. And I believe there's another
- one at the corner that's marked 129.7. It's close
- to Lot 801, I guess. And when you move the
- garage, you're going to have to excavate. So my
- 14 question is: What do you plan to do -- once you
- 15 disconnect those two in particular, what do you
- 16 plan to do with them? It runs into our system,
- 17 that's why. So I'm trying to figure out once they
- 18 get disconnected, what happens to them?
- MS. HROBLAK: Mr. Ralph, do you have
- any idea how that area will be graded after the
- 21 garage is removed? That will affect how much
- 22 water will go into those drains.
- MR. RALPH: Yeah, correct. I think
- there's a pretty natural pattern from 131 to 130.
- 25 It's relatively clean contours back and down as it

- 1 goes; if we were to do contours. And again, you
- 2 can see that the garage is set basically within
- 3 inches of the natural pattern. We had not
- 4 intended to regrade. They would just remove,
- 5 demo, and refill with clean fill and topsoil and
- 6 seed; so to speak. So again, I think -- and
- 7 Mr. Kopec can speak up -- but I think they're
- 8 neither here nor there on the drainage system.
- 9 They're happy to have that drainage system persist
- in place with no modification. And as I've
- demonstrated tonight, this will clearly improve
- the drainage situation for the rear neighbor,
- 13 Mr. Fahy.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Fahy, I
- 15 believe what Mr. Ralph is saying is that once that
- 16 garage is removed, the grades will be returned to
- 17 basically what you see on the current grading
- 18 sheet. So the 129.4 will remain at 129.4. The
- 19 129.7 will remain at 129.7. However, once the
- 20 garage is gone, it will be backfilled with topsoil
- 21 and seeded to those grades. If there are existing
- drains at those two locations, they would remain
- 23 at the current elevation and at the current
- location. Is that Correct, Mr. Ralph.
- 25 MR. RALPH: That is correct.

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1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Does that answer
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- 2 your question, Mr. Fahy?
- MR. FAHY: So they're not going to
- 4 be capped and abandoned?
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Ralph?
- 6 MR. FAHY: The one at the far
- 7 corner, the 129.4, it's a down leader right now.
- 8 So if you're not going to cap it or abandon it,
- 9 are you just going to put a drain in the yard? I
- 10 guess is the question. And then what's being
- 11 drained in there in particular?
- 12 (Crosstalk.)
- MR. FAHY: Because our system --
- 14 sorry. Go ahead.
- 15 MR. RALPH: No. No. It might help
- 16 if you maybe stated -- and in some ways, maybe
- 17 this is neighbor-to-neighbor -- but I'm not -- I
- understand your question, but if there is a motive
- or a specific ask it might be helpful to just
- 20 present that to Mr. Kopec so that he can --
- 21 because if your suggestion is remove it, that
- you'd be happier if we remove it and cap it and
- just keep the rear drain, then he can say yes or
- 24 no to that.
- MR. FAHY: Well, listen, I'm just

- 1 asking the question because I mean that
- 2 opportunity is always available, but, I mean, this
- 3 is medium, I guess. My question is: What are you
- 4 doing with the drains? That's all. If you're
- 5 going to cap them and abandon them, that's all I'm
- 6 asking. But something has to be changed because
- 7 you're moving the whole location of the garage.
- 8 They can't stay necessarily as they are because
- 9 they're going to be excavated. So if they're
- 10 going to be buried and capped, that's fine. I'm
- 11 just trying to figure out if that's the deal or if
- 12 you're planning on doing something else to it.
- MR. RALPH: That's fair. And to do
- 14 best by all parties here, my suggestion would be
- 15 that the final determination on what we do with
- 16 those two drains specifically could be subject to
- our final engineer plan and the town engineer's
- 18 review, and if it is deemed those should be
- 19 removed for the best of the property and the
- 20 existing drainage system; that is what we'll do.
- 21 If it's deemed that those should become lawn
- drains into the system; that's what we'll do. I'm
- 23 hesitating just because I don't want to make the
- 24 wrong call with the data that I have at my
- 25 fingertips tonight.

- 1 MS. HROBLAK: Mr. Fahy, when the
- 2 garage is removed, if those drains that you're
- 3 speaking of that we don't actually see on our
- 4 plans are to survive the excavation process, they
- 5 would just be converted into lawn drains which
- 6 would then be channeling far less water than prior
- 7 because there's no structure there. So you'll be
- 8 getting nominal inflow. It would be probably less
- 9 than the one shown on the plan.
- 10 MR. FAHY: That's fine. As long as
- I have -- like right now, nobody knows, I guess.
- 12 It's just nobody knows. That's the whole point of
- my question.
- MS. HROBLAK: Nobody knows what?
- 15 MR. FAHY: What they're going to do
- 16 with them.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Fahy, I did
- 18 would think that those two drains that you're
- 19 talking about right now are basically only there
- 20 to collect the water runoff from the garage which
- 21 will no longer be there. Once that garage is
- 22 eliminated, as Mr. Ralph has stated, those
- 23 existing drains can either be converted to a lawn
- drain similar to the one that's currently in
- 25 existence in the rear left-hand corner or they can

- 1 be eliminated. As Mr. Hroblak mentioned, since
- 2 they are -- it appears they're only there to
- 3 collect water from the garage roof which will no
- 4 longer be there. Then it would be up to the town
- 5 engineer and the building department to determine
- 6 whether those drains should remain or not remain.
- 7 And if there's a preference one way or the other
- 8 between yourself and the Kopec's then I'm sure
- 9 that it could be worked out. Either way, as
- 10 Mr. Hroblak said, I don't believe they will be
- 11 collecting an enormous amount of water since their
- 12 current purpose of collecting water from the
- 13 garage will no longer be there.
- 14 MR. FAHY: Understood. Understood.
- 15 I guess this is what I would ask then and maybe
- 16 the details we can work out in the future. If
- they're no longer needed, if they could be buried
- 18 and capped so nothing is introduced into the
- 19 system, any sort of debris, I think that would be
- 20 fine too.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Certainly. I
- don't see a reason why that can't happen. And
- certainly, it would probably make sense to do that
- 24 simply because what they're being used for now is
- 25 not what they'll be used for later. So cutting

- and capping them properly I'm sure could be worked
- 2 out.
- MR. FAHY: Great. I appreciate it.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: No problem at all.
- 5 Thank you, Mr. Fahy. Do you have any other
- 6 questions?
- 7 MR. FAHY: No, sir.
- 8 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 9 MR. FAHY: Thank you.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Anyone else from
- 11 the audience have any questions for Mr. Ralph?
- 12 Seeing none. Any other Board Members? Seeing
- none, I'll close that portion of the meeting and
- open it up to Board discussion. You've heard from
- 15 Mr. Ralph with respect to the changes that we had
- 16 requested or the comments that we had made. I
- 17 believe both himself and the applicant have worked
- 18 towards meeting the requirements that we had
- 19 recommended. As I mentioned earlier, the
- 20 elimination of the garage will certainly increase
- 21 the impervious coverage on the property and the
- regrading I believe of the driveway will also
- 23 significantly, hopefully, significantly help the
- 24 water accumulation in the backyard. I'm in favor
- 25 of supporting the application based on those

- 1 revisions. How does the rest of the Board feel?
- MR. MASCIALE: I agree, Frank. I
- 3 think the applicant did a great job and in
- 4 consideration. I drove by and looked at the
- 5 grading. There's no quarantee on the water
- 6 runoff, but I think this is going to make a big
- 7 difference and moves it in the right direction.
- 8 Based on that, I support the additional coverage
- 9 and I'm in favor of the application.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you, Chris.
- 11 I think it's certainly not going to make the
- 12 situation worse, in my opinion. Better, if
- anything. Any other Board Members? Comments?
- 14 MS. HROBLAK: Yeah. I'm with Chris.
- 15 I think the changes accommodated our comments. I
- 16 also want to add that I went out and looked at the
- 17 site again, and you know, I'm not convinced that
- that drain was ever going to do what it was meant
- 19 to do based on my approximate estimates of the
- depths of the drains, and the outlet point on
- 21 Hazel. So it's very possible that some water just
- 22 sits in that drain. But that kind of goes to
- 23 maybe it was just an ill-conceived, undesigned
- 24 drainage system. But, yeah, it's not making it
- 25 any worse. We're going to try and discharge some

- onto the grass and the rest out to Scotch Plains.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 3 Allyson. Anyone else? Comments?
- 4 MS. MOLNAR: Yeah. I had a
- 5 question. On coverage, historically, the Board
- 6 tries to stay below 22%?
- 7 MR. MASCIALE: We have in the past,
- 8 but each application is different, Carol, and
- 9 you've got to take it on its own merits. But, you
- 10 know, sometimes the property is undersized and,
- 11 you know, it's just a general variance. But each
- 12 case has to be taken on its own merits.
- MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes. And I
- 15 believe they're point-half of 1% over that 22%
- 16 kind of recommendation that we usually try to
- 17 stick by. Anyone else?
- 18 MS. HROBLAK: Did he reduce the
- 19 coverage? It was like 22.5? Was that the final
- 20 number?
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah, 22.54. From
- 22 23.02 to 22.54, yes. They eliminated some square
- footage in that mudroom. And if you look at the
- 24 architectural plans of the mudroom, they have four
- 25 closets that are 1-foot wide. I mean I don't

- think you can make a closet any smaller. I don't
- 2 think they even make a door that's 1-foot wide.
- 3 Anyone that's what's on the architectural plans.
- 4 I know Allyson had made a comment or a possible
- 5 condition with respect to having some sort of curb
- 6 along the right-side property line.
- 7 MR. MASCIALE: I think it's a great
- 8 idea, and Allyson should make a motion to include
- 9 it.
- 10 MS. HROBLAK: Thanks, Chris. I'd
- 11 like to make a motion.
- MS. RAZIN: I'm going to also
- include the discharge on the grass in addition to
- 14 going towards Scotch Plains to the extent
- 15 feasible.
- 16 MS. HROBLAK: I was going to mention
- 17 that.
- MS. RAZIN: And the condition per
- 19 the neighboring property owner that the drains, if
- they're no longer needed, are buried and capped
- 21 properly in the future.
- MS. HROBLAK: I was going to leave
- that to the town engineer to make that
- determination on whether they are functional or
- 25 not.

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1 MS. RAZIN: I'm saying if they're --
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- 2 okay, yeah.
- 3 MS. HROBLAK: If the town deems it,
- 4 they be cut and capped to prevent clogging of the
- 5 adjacent drainage system.
- 6 MS. RAZIN: Okay. Perfect.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Do I have a
- 8 motion? Allyson?
- 9 MR. MASCIALE: Allyson is on mute.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Allyson? Maybe
- 11 not.
- MS. HROBLAK: All right. Here I am.
- Sorry, my little box disappeared from the Zoom
- 14 window. I'll make a motion to accept the
- application with the following conditions that
- there be a curb installed along the right-side
- 17 property line between the subject property and
- 18 Lot 8.01 to prevent discharge onto that lot. As
- well as a sloping of the driveway in the front
- yard area to allow sheet flow onto the front yard.
- 21 And also, to have the town engineer determine the
- 22 outcome of the drains behind the existing garage.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Do I have a
- 24 second?
- MS. PAVON: Second.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Second by
- 2 Ms. Pavon. Mr. Sammet, roll call, please.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Chair Fusaro.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: And Mr. Reisen.
- MR. REISEN: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Approved with
- 20 conditions.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: The application is
- 22 approved. Thank you, Mr. Ralph. Thank you,
- 23 Mr. Kopec. Enjoy the rest of your evening, and
- 24 good luck with your project.
- MR. RALPH: Thank you for your

- 1 collaboration as always. Take care.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Our next
- 3 application is 245 Charles Street,
- 4 Christopher Jonson. The applicant is seeking to
- 5 replace existing 4-foot fence with a white vinyl
- 6 6-foot fence. The existing 4-foot high fence on
- 7 Charles Street side that wraps around to North
- 8 Avenue will remain as is. The side street fence
- 9 facing North Avenue will be replaced, as well as
- 10 the neighbor-facing rear side fence with a 6-foot
- 11 high fence; contrary to the following section of
- the Westfield Land Use Ordinance: Section 12.07
- where fence height permitted is 4-feet and
- 14 proposed is 6-feet.
- 15 Is Mr. Jonson in the audience?
- 16 Please raise your hand and Mr. Sammet will let you
- 17 in.
- MR. SAMMET: He's there,
- 19 Mr. Chairman.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I see. Thank you
- 21 so much. Mr. Jonson, let me swear you in.
- 22 CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON, having been
- 23 duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Do you have anyone
- 25 else here with you this evening or you're flying

- 1 solo?
- 2 MR. JONSON: Flying solo.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. Great.
- 4 Thank you so much. Tell us about your
- 5 application.
- 6 MR. JONSON: This application is
- 7 basically for allowing my fence to be 6-foot high.
- 8 My property is located on the corner of Charles
- 9 Street and North Avenue. North Avenue is a busy
- 10 street. As the survey that is in the application
- shows, a significant portion of my backyard is
- 12 used for leisure, and I have young children as
- 13 well. And so the combination of going to minimize
- 14 as much, you know, vehicle noise while we're
- 15 enjoying our backyard coupled with having as high
- 16 as possible a fence so that any play objects don't
- 17 go across -- which, hopefully, they don't. For
- those two reasons, I think a variance can be
- 19 granted in this case. You know as these are
- 20 potential hardships, and it's my understanding
- 21 that variances can be granted based on that.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 23 Mr. Jonson. I believe I'm familiar with the
- 24 property. The home was built recently; is that
- 25 correct?

- 1 MR. JONSON: Yeah. I don't know the
- 2 exact date the construction was completed, but we
- 3 purchased the home in December of 2014 as a new
- 4 construction.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: And the existing
- fence along the neighbor's property, was that
- fence, is that new or was it there when the home
- 8 was constructed in 2014 or was it there from the
- 9 prior -- there used to be a prior residence on
- 10 this piece of property that was demolished?
- MR. JONSON: Yeah. The existing
- fence that's along the neighbor's side was there
- when I purchased the home and it's unchanged since
- 14 then.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I believe from the
- 16 photographs that were included in our packet,
- 17 there are a bunch of arborvitaes. There's
- 18 additional screening by that fence certainly
- running across the North Avenue side; is that
- 20 correct?
- MR. JONSON: Correct. And a portion
- as well between my house and the neighbor's house,
- 23 but not all the way.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes, I see that in
- 25 the photographs as well. And you would not be

- 1 opposed to a condition stating that those
- 2 arborvitaes are to be maintained and if any of
- 3 them died that you would be willing to replace
- 4 them.
- 5 MR. JONSON: No, I'm not opposed,
- but I'd like a little clarity on the question.
- 7 Which ones are you referring to? Because I have a
- 8 set of arborvitaes that run along North Avenue,
- 9 they actually wrap around to Charles Street. But
- 10 there's also five or six, I don't know the exact
- 11 number, between my home and the neighbor's home.
- 12 So I don't know if you're referring specifically
- to the arborvitaes between my home and the
- 14 neighbors or the ones that are running along North
- 15 Avenue.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I was referring to
- the ones running along North Avenue. However,
- 18 looking at the photographs, it would appear -- and
- 19 please correct me if I'm wrong -- that the ones
- 20 running along the side property between yours and
- 21 the neighbors, it would appear to me based on the
- 22 photo of the 4-foot fence and arborvitaes that
- they are on his property and not yours.
- MR. JONSON: They're actually on my
- 25 property.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Those are your
- 2 trees, not his?
- MR. JONSON: Those are my trees,
- 4 exactly. They run right up along my property
- 5 line.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: So all the
- 7 arborvitaes both the ones along North Avenue and
- 8 the one along the adjoining property are yours?
- 9 MR. JONSON: Correct.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: In that case,
- 11 we'll discuss it with several other Board Members,
- we may ask you to maintain all of them. Is there
- a pool or anything on the property next to it?
- 14 MR. JONSON: I wish. I don't know
- if that would be permitted. No, is the answer.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Looking at the
- 17 survey --
- MS. HROBLAK: Frank?
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- MS. HROBLAK: Were you asking if he
- 21 had a pool or if the neighbor had a pool?
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I asked if the
- 23 neighbor had a pool.
- MR. JONSON: No, the neighbor does
- 25 not have a pool.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Sorry. Thanks,
- 2 Allyson, for picking that up. Looking at the
- 3 survey that we have from EKA, it would appear that
- 4 that side of your property abuts -- there's a, I
- 5 guess, the neighbor's garage, a shed, and then the
- driveway. Correct? There is no home located
- 7 within 10- or 15-feet of that property line; is
- 8 that correct?
- 9 MR. JONSON: Correct. I mean I
- 10 can't tell you for sure about the 15-feet part of
- 11 what you said, but there is no abutting home on my
- 12 property line with my neighbor's property line.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Does
- 14 any Board Members have any questions for
- 15 Mr. Jonson?
- 16 MR. MASCIALE: Yes, I do, Frank.
- 17 Mr. Jonson, the arborvitaes look like they're
- 18 pretty full along the North Avenue. Could you
- just state what you're looking to achieve that the
- arborvitaes are not providing you today?
- MR. JONSON: Sure. It's difficult
- 22 to tell from the photo; if you have access to
- 23 that.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- 25 MR. JONSON: You can tell that there

- 1 are River Birch trees as well between the
- 2 arborvitaes. That's how the landscaper designed
- 3 it to get maximum Coverage from a higher height, I
- 4 guess. So it's in between, so I don't know,
- 5 there's also -- I can look here -- there's a
- 6 picture of the inside which may -- you'll see what
- 7 I'm about to try to describe. No, my picture on
- 8 the inside doesn't really -- I guess, it does sort
- 9 of, the angle isn't the best. But basically,
- 10 there are five River Birches between the
- 11 arborvitaes, and so there are open spaces that
- 12 look out into North Avenue from there, which would
- be better covered by a 6-foot high fence.
- 14 MR. MASCIALE: Versus a 4-foot
- 15 fence.
- 16 MR. JONSON: Versus a 4-foot fence.
- 17 MR. MASCIALE: So there's like five
- 18 or six spots, the two-feet, is you're looking to
- 19 block in?
- MR. JONSON: Correct.
- MR. MASCIALE: And there's no way to
- do that with screening?
- MR. JONSON: What do you mean by
- 24 screening?
- 25 MR. MASCIALE: Like another tree or

- 1 a bush on your side of the fence. I mean to me
- 2 there's --
- 3 MR. JONSON: Part of the reason is
- 4 you know I indicated this is used for leisure and
- 5 recreation. Bringing in another tree would take
- 6 away from that ability and would minimize yard
- 7 area.
- 8 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Jonson, again,
- 9 looking at the photographs, the fence that you
- 10 currently have along the corner and the front of
- 11 your property is a sculpted wood fence or a
- 12 sculpted vinyl fence, and the fence you're looking
- 13 to replace looks like a simple 4-foot high
- 14 stockade fence. You're looking to replace it with
- 15 a -- the last page of our packet shows a diagram
- of the fence that you're looking to replace it
- 17 with. And I guess it would be a sculpted-type
- 18 fence similar to what you have in the front.
- 19 However, even though it's six-foot-high, the top
- of it is basically open.
- MR. JONSON: Yeah. I did that for
- 22 aesthetic purposes in part to this application to
- 23 try and maintain the consistency with the look of
- the outside fence. Personally, I wouldn't be
- 25 opposed to just having a block full 6-foot height

- for the reasons that I was already explaining.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Any
- 3 other Board Members have any questions for
- 4 Mr. Jonson at this time?
- 5 MS. HROBLAK: I have a quick
- 6 question. The arborvitaes along the neighbor's
- 7 property, would they have to be removed? Are they
- 8 along the fence line? Would they be killed by new
- 9 fence construction, like, damaged?
- MR. JONSON: No. They're fully
- 11 grown at this point, and the sunlight is -- the
- fence has been in front of them all along. So
- there shouldn't be any risk to their survival or
- 14 anything. They're well-rooted and there's plenty
- of sun coverage, so there shouldn't be any impact.
- 16 I'm obviously not a -- whatever the scientific
- term is for somebody who deals with plants -- but
- 18 they've got critical mass.
- MS. HROBLAK: I like it; critical
- 20 mass. I think it's a town arborist; the person.
- MR. JONSON: Arborist. That is the
- 22 word, yeah.
- 23 MS. HROBLAK: Thank you. I couldn't
- tell if some of them were actually going to be
- 25 along the line of the fence here. Thank you.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Any other Board
- 2 Members? Seeing none, does anyone from the public
- 3 wish to address this application? Please raise
- 4 your hand virtually and Mr. Sammet will allow you
- 5 into the meeting.
- 6 MR. SAMMET: Going once. There's no
- 7 one, Mr. Chair.
- 8 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much,
- 9 Mr. Sammet. We'll close that portion of the
- 10 meeting. No one else, no other Board Members have
- 11 any comments or questions for Mr. Jonson. At this
- 12 time, we'll close that portion of the meeting as
- well and open it up to Board discussion.
- As you know, Mr. Jonson's property
- 15 is along North Avenue located virtually across the
- 16 street from Lord and Taylor or where Lord and
- 17 Taylor was. North Avenue is a state highway and
- 18 does, obviously, have a significant amount of
- 19 traffic. The photographs that you have in your
- 20 package obviously show quite a bit of screening,
- in my opinion, as Chris had mentioned as well.
- However, it appears that Mr. Jonson would like to
- 23 increase that screening with the addition of this
- 24 six-foot-high fence. And Don, correct me if I'm
- 25 wrong, this would normally be allowed in a rear

- 1 yard, but since this is a unique triangular-shaped
- lot, that's where the front yard, side yard issues
- 3 come into play; is that correct?
- 4 MR. SAMMET: That's right. The
- 5 applicant is proposing a 6-foot tall fence in what
- the zoning ordinance considers a street-side yard.
- 7 Similar to -- well, exactly how a fence is treated
- 8 for a front yard area in Westfield where you want
- 9 the smaller fences. So only 4-foot is permitted
- where he's proposing.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 12 While I'm kind of -- no pun intended -- on the
- fence about this application, as I mentioned
- 14 previously, there is a fair amount of screening in
- 15 my opinion. However, the applicant is requesting
- 16 some additional screening. I do kind of like the
- fence design that's being proposed with the
- 18 sculpted top to match the 4-foot fence which is
- 19 around the remaining portion of the property. You
- 20 know, certainly under the C-1 Variance, would be
- 21 what we would be -- C-1 Criteria, I'm sorry, is
- 22 what we would be reviewing this under. Don has
- also included in his report where that setback
- line would be where this portion of the property
- is considered the street-side yard.

- 1 Having said that, I would support
- 2 the application. How does the rest of the Board
- 3 feel?
- 4 MS. MOLNAR: I feel there's plenty
- of screening, but since he does have small
- 6 children, I'd be in favor of a higher fence.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you, Carol.
- 8 Anyone else?
- 9 MR. REISEN: I concur with
- 10 everything that's been said.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you, Sam.
- 12 MS. HROBLAK: I'm also confused with
- 13 Chris, but I do understand the desire to close off
- 14 that space. It's just kind of interesting to me.
- 15 I thought you'd maybe get more sound barrier with
- 16 a higher, solid fence if you were going to do it.
- MR. JONSON: Yeah, I mean.
- 18 Definitely for sure --
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Jonson, sorry,
- 20 we have that portion closed. However, if you'd
- like to hear from Mr. Jonson, I can certainly
- 22 reopen it.
- 23 MR. JONSON: No. I had the same
- 24 thoughts. That's all I was saying. For sure, and
- 25 I was back and forth. You know, looks versus

- 1 effect.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: As I mentioned
- 3 earlier, North Avenue is a heavily trafficked
- 4 roadway. So certainly, a solid fence might be
- 5 better. However, a sculpted fence with the
- 6 combination of the arborvitaes will certainly
- 7 suffice. Any other Board Members; comments?
- 8 MR. MASCIALE: I'll just comment,
- 9 Frank. There's really no hardship here. The
- 10 applicant is trying to maximize the use and the
- 11 barrier. I understand he's on North Avenue.
- 12 Typically. I'd be against this type of
- application because, without the screening, the
- 14 6-foot fence would block the sight lines and that,
- 15 but with so much screening here, you're not going
- 16 to see to fence anyway, and I like it sculpted. I
- 17 think it doesn't maximize the 6-foot as a solid
- 18 fence. And there're certain roads in town like
- 19 Rahway Avenue where there're sections where there
- are side yards where there are preexisting 6-foot
- 21 fences around, and it really gives a buffer. It's
- against the ordinance of the town, but there're
- certain neighborhoods where that's kind of
- 24 grandfathered in; if you want to say it
- 25 unofficially. In this location, you know, he's

- 1 trying to create a backyard and a hardship here.
- I don't really see a hardship, but I don't see a
- 3 negative impact. And based on that with the C-1,
- 4 I think we can grant this. But I would ask is if
- 5 we give consideration if the screening for the
- 6 trees dies what goes back in there. If you say
- 7 replace a 20-foot arborvitae and loses 20 trees,
- 8 he's going to have to take out a second mortgage.
- 9 So maybe we should have some language in there
- 10 that it's at least as high as the fence or
- 11 something.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: A minimum of
- 13 6-foot of whatever.
- MR. MASCIALE: Something like that
- 15 to cover the fencing.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Standard
- arborvitae trees are 6- to 8-feet usually.
- MR. MASCIALE: Otherwise, bringing
- in a dozen 20-foot arborvitaes get a little bit
- 20 expensive.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Extremely. I
- 22 agree.
- MS. MOLNAR: Could we approve this
- 24 under the C-2 rather the C-1 hardship because this
- 25 is not a hardship.

- 1 MR. MASCIALE: I think we need to
- 2 state it. I don't think we actually physically
- 3 vote on C-1 or C-2, but we reference it. So,
- 4 yeah, you're right Carol, C-2. I think that is
- 5 correct.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: That's fine.
- 7 Thank you. If there are no other comments, we've
- 8 heard a proposed condition, do I have a motion?
- 9 MR. MASCIALE: I'll make a motion to
- 10 accept the application with the condition that the
- 11 screening be maintained with replacing at least
- 12 6-foot arborvitaes or equivalent.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 14 Mr. Masciale.
- MS. HROBLAK: Second.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Seconded by
- 17 Ms. Hroblak. Mr. Sammet, please call the roll.
- 18 MR. SAMMET: Chairman Fusaro.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- 4 MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Reisen.
- 8 MR. REISEN: Yes.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you.
- 10 Mr. Jonson, your application is approved. Good
- 11 luck with your project.
- MR. JONSON: Thank you.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Enjoy your
- 14 evening.
- 15 Moving right along to our third
- application of the evening. Is for 300 Roanoke
- 17 Road, Giuseppe DiPietro and Lina Ferraro.
- 18 Applicant is seeking approval to install an
- in-ground swimming pool and patio contrary to the
- 20 Westfield Land Use Ordinance Section 13.02.D.3
- 21 where pool location; in zoning side-yard permitted
- is rear yard and proposed is zoning side yard.
- 23 And Section 12.04.G where maximum improvement
- coverage permitted is 40% or 7,200-square feet,
- and proposed is 38.8% or 7,823-square feet.

- 1 I believe Mr. Hehl is representing
- the applicants this evening. I see Mr. Watson and
- 3 I see the applicants.
- 4 MR. HEHL: I'm two boxes away from
- 5 you.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Is there anyone
- 7 else, Mr. Hehl?
- 8 MR. HEHL: No. Giuseppe and Lina
- 9 and Mr. Watson; Jim Watson.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 11 Mr. Hehl. Please proceed.
- MR. HEHL: Great. Thank you and
- great to see everyone. And I hope the next time,
- 14 next months' meeting, will be in-person and move
- on back to a normal life. Again, thank you very
- 16 much. This is an application by Giuseppe DiPietro
- and Lina Ferraro. I know everyone is probably
- 18 familiar with the Ferraro family. They own the
- 19 restaurant in town, Ferraro's South, which kind of
- 20 helped us survive through the pandemic with orders
- 21 from Ferraro's South, and also their interest in
- the Bovella's Bakery. But they are long-standing
- residents of Westfield, and the pandemic has
- 24 brought to light the importance of family. And
- 25 they're looking to continue that. And this Board

- 1 has had quite a few of those cases.
- 2 This is a bit of a unique
- 3 application, and Mr. Sammet did a great job --
- 4 thank you, Don -- for giving an overview.
- 5 There're two variances associated with this
- 6 application. The first is that we're seeking to
- 7 have the pool placed in the side yard. But as Don
- 8 aptly noted in his report and you'll hear from the
- 9 testimony as shown in the plans that were
- 10 submitted. It's really because when you look at
- 11 it, the true front yard is Roanoke, but as a
- 12 practical matter, the house faces Lawrence and the
- 13 quote-unquote "usable rear yard" is behind the
- 14 house facing Lawrence. And I think as Don noted,
- the quote-unquote "rear yard" is less than
- 16 15-feet. So if you were to try and put it,
- there's no room for a pool there. The logical to
- 18 put the pool is in the side yard.
- The other variance is for the
- 20 coverage, and we do meet the zone criteria for the
- 21 40%. So we're below the 40% but we're above the
- 22 7,200. But two factors there -- and I think this
- Board has heard extensive testimony on other
- 24 applications -- that a pool, for coverage
- 25 purposes, actually acts as detention, but also, we

- 1 have no problem making it -- if this Board is kind
- 2 enough to approve this application -- to indicate
- 3 that we would provide detention, work with the
- 4 town engineer to provide additional detention to
- 5 address the overage. Like I said, we're below the
- 6 40% but we're above the 72.
- 7 So that's an overview of the
- 8 application, Mr. Chairman and Board Members.
- 9 Again, I'd like to thank Mr. Sammet. He always
- does a great job providing an overview to the
- Board of the items that we're going to discuss
- 12 this evening. So what I'd like to do first is
- call up Mr. Watson to take us to the plans from
- 14 EKA and he'll be wearing a hat not only as
- designer of the site but also as professional
- 16 planner. And then, Giuseppe and Lina would like
- to say a few things to the Board. So I would call
- 18 upon Mr. James Watson.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 20 Mr. Hehl. Mr. Watson, please raise your hand.
- JAMES WATSON, having been duly
- 22 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Watson, I know
- you've appeared before the Board several times
- 25 this year already. So we will continue to

- 1 recognize your expert testimony in the field of
- 2 planning.
- MR. WATSON: Thank you very much.
- 4 Can everyone hear me okay?
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes, sir.
- MR. WATSON: I'm going to try and
- 7 share my screen and I'll walk you through the
- 8 plans. Don, do I need to do anything other than
- 9 just hit the button?
- 10 MR. SAMMET: No. You should be able
- 11 to, Jim. Yes, we can see it.
- MR. WATSON: I'm going to start with
- 13 the cover sheet. There we go. Typical cover
- sheet for our plans. In the upper left-hand
- 15 corner, you have a list of owners within 200-feet.
- 16 Upper right-hand corner you have your key map;
- it's the USC&G Quadrangle Map in this case. Below
- 18 that, signature blocks where the approvals and for
- 19 the owner/applicant. Left side and bottom you
- 20 have some general notes. Set of plans is entitled
- "Variance Plan Tax Lot 33, Block 406." In the
- center of the sheet, you see your tax map data
- with the zoning criteria overlaid on there.
- Everything, or most of everything, you see is in
- 25 the RS-24 Zone. To the upper right, everything

- 1 below that is the RS-16. In the center of the
- 2 sheet at the bottom is the zoning table. And I'll
- 3 zoom in a little bit on that.
- This is a for the RS-16. I'm not
- 5 going to read everything. You'll see, we do have
- a number of existing non-conformities. They were
- 7 granted by a prior approval back in 2009. The two
- 8 variances that we have to deal with tonight are
- 9 the location of the pool in the zoning side yard.
- 10 It is actually the functional rear yard of the
- 11 house. And again, as Mr. Hehl said, we violate
- the maximum coverage. We do comply with the 40%.
- We do not comply with the 7,200-square foot limit.
- 14 MS. MOLNAR: Has that been noted as
- 15 a variance?
- 16 MR. WATSON: It is noted as a
- 17 variance, yes. Because you have a two-prong
- 18 approach when it comes to maximum coverage of a
- 19 lot. And in this case, we don't meet the square
- 20 footage requirement.
- MS. MOLNAR: But the general
- 22 requirements all say no variance, no
- 23 (indiscernible) that's a, yes?
- 24 MR. WATSON: Yeah. We don't know
- 25 how to -- we noticed for it. It was noticed for

- in the paper and on the notices that were mailed
- out. But sometimes, you know, we'll put "no"
- 3 because -- well, listen to my argument a little
- 4 bit more, and then we can make a decision. Okay?
- 5 MS. MOLNAR: Yep.
- MR. WATSON: Moving along, what I'll
- 7 do is go to Sheet 2, which is your site plan and
- 8 grading plan. You'll see the existing house shown
- 9 and the existing driveway shown that are screened
- 10 back. You can see the proposed patio and pool
- 11 that is proposed in the functional rear yard of
- 12 the property. Technically, by your ordinance, the
- 13 shorter of the two street frontages on a corner
- lot are defined as your front yard. Your rear
- 15 yard is opposite your front yard. So in this case
- 16 Roanoke Road, because it has a frontage of 50.67
- which is shorter than the frontage of 61.45 along
- 18 Lawrence Avenue; Roanoke is your front yard. So
- 19 opposite Roanoke is this line here where my cursor
- is going back and forth along, that is where by
- 21 ordinance you have to put your pool.
- Houses built in 1950, your ordinance
- was revised in a major revision around 2000 where
- they started dedicating and getting very defined
- 25 as what is the front yard, what is the street-side

- 1 yard, what is the rear yard. So that's the reason
- 2 the house faces the street-side yard, and the
- 3 functional backyard is where we're putting the
- 4 pool. Please keep in mind that no matter where we
- 5 put this pool on this lot, we're conforming with
- the pool setback requirements. It's 15-feet to
- 7 the rear yard and 15-feet to the side yard. So
- 8 even if the house was twisted around and pushed
- 9 out towards Roanoke with a different lot set up,
- 10 we could still put the pool where we show it as
- long as it was behind or in the rear yard as
- defined by ordinance. So nothing about the
- 13 location other than the fact that it doesn't meet
- 14 your zoning definition of a rear yard, there's
- 15 nothing else wrong with it.
- 16 Finishing up, the grading plan, we
- 17 show some minor grading along the, I guess, it
- 18 would be the southeasterly line along here. We're
- 19 creating a high point over in this area. And the
- 20 grades are going to push the water along the wall
- out towards Roanoke, and then they're going to
- swale it along the decking and along the side of
- 23 the house going over an existing inlet and out to
- 24 the front yard over the lawn area and out onto
- 25 Lawrence Avenue. Again, we mimic -- let me go

- 1 back to this -- we are showing the -- we mimic the
- 2 notes from the cover sheet that were on the
- 3 left-hand side. We have a legend, and we also
- 4 have a title block in the lower right-hand corner
- 5 along with a bar scale and a detail for sod and
- 6 walk replacement. The final sheet in the set is
- 7 the survey which is shown here. It's a title
- 8 survey dated -- this was dated June 21, I believe
- 9 -- no, June 23, 2021. This shows the existing
- 10 conditions and the existing topo on the lot. You
- 11 can see that there's a paved drive going into a
- 12 side-entry garage. Technically, that is the front
- of the house as defined by your zoning ordinance.
- 14 And the functional front of the house is the side
- 15 along the west that faces Lawrence Avenue. Again,
- 16 this is completely landscaped. There's a
- 17 retaining wall along the easterly line. Along the
- 18 south, there is more retaining wall. There's a
- 19 split in there where they have some landscaping in
- 20 between and another retaining wall moving along
- 21 the southerly line going towards Lawrence Avenue.
- That's it for the plans. There's
- 23 not much to these. If you want, I can answer any
- questions about the plans, and then I can move
- 25 into the planning testimony.

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1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Watson, you
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- 2 mentioned that this home was constructed in 1950?
- 3 MR. WATSON: Yeah. I think it was
- 4 1950. That's what was in your tax rolls, the
- 5 information. It might have been improved,
- 6 expanded, and I guess a lot of things done. It
- 7 doesn't look like a typically 1950s home. I took
- 8 that from your tax roll information.
- 9 MS. MOLNAR: What was the original
- 10 footprint of the original house compared to this
- 11 footprint?
- 12 MR. WATSON: That, I don't know.
- MR. SAMMET: I think, Mr. Molnar, I
- 14 received the prior variance application, and from
- 15 my recollection is that at that time they
- 16 basically built the second story over the existing
- 17 structure. So I'll make an assumption it's
- 18 relatively close to what you see there today in
- 19 terms of footprint.
- 20 MS. MOLNAR: Okay. Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: One quick
- 22 question, Mr. Watson. The retaining wall along
- 23 the neighbor's property -- I'm looking at some of
- the top and bottom of wall elevations -- that wall
- 25 appears to be, approximately, 7-feet high; is that

- 1 correct?
- 2 MR. WATSON: Let me go to the survey
- 3 and we've got -- you're talking about the one
- 4 along the easterly line?
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Correct. Right
- 6 there, yes.
- 7 MR. WATSON: You have about 5-foot
- 8 here, 6, and in the corner, you've got about 7,
- 9 yeah.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Some of the, I
- 11 guess I would call it "renderings" that were
- 12 submitted with the package, as well as some of the
- photographs, show a fair amount of screening,
- green screening back there. I'm assuming that --
- 15 yet they're on the other side of the retaining
- 16 wall -- I'm assuming that vegetation all belongs
- 17 to this property; correct?
- 18 MR. WATSON: Correct. There's a
- 19 fence in there as well. In between the retaining
- 20 wall and the fence is where most of this stuff is
- 21 planted. If you want, I can show you pictures
- that were taken when we did the fieldwork. And
- this gives a good feeling for where the pool is
- 24 going to go. The first picture is where my cursor
- is, that's the corner that you're referring to

- 1 that's 7-feet high.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 3 MR. WATSON: You can see, this wall
- 4 tapers down. You can see the extensive
- 5 landscaping in between the wall and the fence.
- 6 You see the other wall, the space between the two
- 7 walls are along the southerly line. And again,
- 8 it's extensively landscaped in between. I can
- 9 show you a second picture that would be to the
- 10 right of what you just saw.
- 11 MR. HEHL: I didn't see a photo,
- don't know if anybody else did.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Those are the ones
- that are included in our package, I assume,
- 15 Mr. Watson?
- 16 MR. WATSON: No. Actually, let's
- 17 mark these. These came from the fieldwork. I
- 18 thought that they showed a greener nicer setup
- 19 back there, and you can really get a feel for
- where the pool is going to go.
- MR. MASCIALE: We're still looking
- 22 at the survey.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We haven't seen
- 24 it.
- 25 MR. WATSON: You haven't seen it?

- 1 I'm sorry.
- MR. HEHL: No. That's what I was
- 3 saying, Jim.
- 4 MR. WATSON: Let me see if I can do
- 5 this. Let me stop sharing and come back in.
- 6 There we go. How's that? Better?
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: There you go, yes.
- 8 MS. RAZIN: Do you want to mark the
- 9 whole package as one exhibit, Mr. Watson?
- MR. WATSON: Yeah. I just have two
- 11 photos in it.
- 12 MS. RAZIN: We'll do A-1 and we'll
- do two photos. And can you just give me an
- 14 approximate date that they were taken?
- 15 MR. WATSON: They were taken
- June 21, 2021, by our field crew when we did the
- 17 fieldwork for the project.
- MS. RAZIN: And they're just site
- 19 photos?
- MR. WATSON: Correct.
- MS. RAZIN: Okay. Thank you very
- 22 much.
- 23 (Whereupon, Applicant's Exhibit A-1,
- FIELDWORK PHOTOGRAPHS DATED 06/21/21, was marked
- 25 for identification.)

- 1 MR. WATSON: And just to show you
- 2 the other photo -- let me see if I can do this.
- 3 I'll stop and come back in with the other photo.
- And here's the one that's to the left of what you
- 5 were just looking at. Can you see that?
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 7 MR. WATSON: At the corner where my
- 8 cursor is right now, that's the corner that we
- 9 were talking about that's 7-feet high. And as I
- 10 said, you can see the wall tapering down and the
- 11 vast amount of landscaping they have on the site.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: The 6-foot high
- fence behind that, all the greenery that's along
- the rear wall there?
- 15 MR. WATSON: Right. That's actually
- 16 higher. It's 6-feet from the ground that's behind
- 17 the wall. So this relative to our side of the
- 18 wall, that's probably about 8- or 9-feet tall
- 19 right there.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: And that same
- 21 fence exists to the left of the photograph, behind
- the arborvitaes to the left?
- MR. WATSON: Correct.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: All along behind
- 25 that retaining wall.

- 1 MR. WATSON: Right. You just can't
- 2 see it because of the thickness of the
- 3 arborvitaes.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Great. Thank you.
- 5 Before Mr. Watson continues with his planning
- 6 justification, does anyone have any current
- 7 questions for Mr. Watson at this time? Board
- 8 members? No? Mr. Watson, please continue.
- 9 MR. WATSON: Sure. I'm going to
- 10 still share. I'll put the site plan back up. Let
- 11 me zoom in a little bit so you have a picture when
- 12 I'm talking. Like I said before, with tonight's
- application, we have two variances. The first is
- for the pool in the side yard. You see where my
- 15 cursor is. Like I explained before, the easterly
- line of the property is your sideline by
- ordinance. The southerly line is your rear yard
- 18 by ordinance. And the Roanoke Road frontage is
- 19 your front yard, and Lawrence Avenue is your
- 20 street-side yard by ordinance. Again, we have the
- 21 pool in the side yard. We're going to ask for
- 22 relief under C-1. Basically, it goes to the shape
- of the property; it's somewhat unique. We do have
- 24 extenuating circumstances about the zoning
- 25 ordinance being rewritten finding front yards,

- 1 rear yards, street-side yards, and regular side
- 2 yards.
- 3 Again, the ordinance requires the
- 4 shorter frontage on the corner lot. And to
- 5 dedicate where the front and the rear yard is, the
- 6 pool is in the side yard by ordinance. It is in
- 7 the functional rear yard of the existing dwelling.
- 8 And as I stated earlier, we do adhere to the
- 9 15-foot setback from the pool to the side yard and
- 10 the rear yard however you define them. So the
- 11 pool is setback 15-feet from the easterly line and
- 12 from the southerly line. But we still meet all
- 13 the setback requirements for the swimming pool;
- 14 like I said. The functional front yard -- and
- 15 I'll try not to hammer this too much -- the
- 16 functional front yard again is Lawrence Avenue.
- 17 The other variance we have tonight
- 18 is for the maximum coverage. The coverage we're
- 19 going to appeal under C-2. We have to talk about
- 20 five things very quickly. We have to talk about a
- 21 specific parcel. We have to list the positive
- 22 criteria. Talk about the negative criteria is the
- 23 third thing. Weigh the positives and the
- 24 negatives. And then finally, we have to come to
- 25 the conclusion there's no substantial detriment.

- 1 The specific parcel, I would say this is unique.
- 2 It's 126% of your required minimum lot area. It
- 3 is a corner lot. It is oddly shaped. I don't
- 4 think you have many lots like this in town.
- 5 Moving into Number 2, the positive criteria. I
- 6 believe we comply under A, and this comes from the
- 7 Purposes of Zoning. "To encourage municipal
- 8 action and guide the appropriate use and
- 9 development in all lands of the state no matter
- 10 which will promote public health, safety, morals,
- and general welfare." Again, general welfare is
- 12 what we're going to apply under. You're allowing
- an existing home to upgrade with desirable
- amenities in this day and age and increase home
- 15 values in the immediate area and the town as well.
- I also think we comply under E,
- 17 which is: "To promote establishment of
- 18 appropriate population densities and
- 19 concentrations that will contribute to the
- 20 wellbeing of persons, neighborhoods, communities,
- 21 and regions, and the preservation of the
- 22 environment." In layman's terms, streetscape.
- 23 Everything that we are constructing is in a
- 24 backyard that is lower than the surrounding yards,
- 25 it's buffered extremely well with a lot of

- 1 plantings, and it is immediately behind the
- 2 dwelling. It's in the functional rear yard of the
- 3 existing dwelling. The only way to really see
- 4 this would be from Roanoke, and you'd have to be
- 5 able to look past the landscaping along Roanoke
- and down behind the existing dwelling that's there
- 7 now where my cursor is, and even part of that is
- 8 screened and obscured from your view on Roanoke.
- 9 I also believe we comply with I,
- 10 which is: "To promote a desirable visual
- 11 environment through creative development
- 12 techniques, good civic design, and arrangements."
- 13 Again, this is a fine way to put a pool to an
- 14 existing dwelling. Like was stated earlier by
- 15 Mr. Hehl, keep in mind that the pool is counted as
- impervious coverage in your ordinance. In
- actuality, the pool is actually a detention
- 18 system. The pool that we have is -- what is it,
- it's 504 -- when you do the math, 504-square feet.
- 20 So if you subtract the 504 from our overage in
- 21 your square footage column, we're really only
- 22 119-square feet over the 7,200 requirement.
- 23 Again, to put it in perspective, that's the size
- of three sheets of plywood. That's not a huge
- area. You have a lot that's got 120,000-square

- 1 feet on it. So this is not a big area that we are
- going over on. But also keep in mind that the
- 3 pool acts as a stormwater management device.
- 4 Everything that hits that pool stays there until
- 5 it's pumped out by the owners or whoever operates
- 6 the pool. We can do additional stormwater
- 7 management if you feel it's necessary. The two
- 8 areas we could do is in between the driveway and
- 9 the easterly line over in the area where my cursor
- 10 is. Or the other area would be along the frontage
- 11 of Lawrence Avenue at the southerly end of the
- 12 front yard. We could put something over here.
- 13 The reason I suggest that area is when you do some
- 14 sort of detention pit, you want clean water to go
- 15 to it. We wouldn't capture anything from the
- 16 pool. What we would do is direct some of the roof
- 17 leaders into a system so that the maintenance is
- 18 lessened and you get clean water in there and you
- don't have a failure of the system with grass
- 20 clippings, leaves, and the like.
- 21 The third thing we have to talk
- about tonight are the negatives. And I don't see
- any negatives to this. It's a typical residential
- 24 accessory use. You're allowing a family to
- 25 utilize their backyard, especially after the last

- 1 couple of years we've had, everybody is doing
- this. I've been before you several times on
- 3 projects like this. Just a quick recap, like
- 4 Mr. Hehl, stated we're allowing a family to have
- 5 gatherings in a safe, isolated environment. The
- 6 pool is 509-square feet. Like I said, it has no
- 7 runoff and it works and acts as a detention
- 8 device. The 119-square foot overage is less than
- 9 a couple of sheets of plywood; like I said. We
- 10 are putting it in the functional rear yard which
- 11 has mature landscaping in place and has had it
- there for several years. And all the existing
- 13 non-conformances were granted variances back in
- 14 2009. All the work will be done behind the
- 15 existing dwelling, no change to the streetscape
- 16 will be noticed by anyone on Roanoke or Lawrence
- 17 Avenue. Like I stated, there are no negatives.
- 18 And we can ask for the C-1 relief for the location
- of the pool in the side yard as defined by your
- 20 zoning ordinance. And finally, just to reiterate,
- 21 we do comply with your pool setback requirements
- 22 of 15-feet to the side and 15-feet to the rear.
- 23 And finally, it's my opinion, and I hope you agree
- 24 with me, that by granting the two variances we're
- asking for there will be no substantial detriment

- 1 to your zoning ordinance or your master plan.
- 2 That's it for the planning testimony. If anybody
- 3 has any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.
- 4 MS. MOLNAR: I have two questions.
- 5 How close is the pool to the next-door neighbor's
- 6 porch?
- 7 MR. WATSON: That, I don't know. If
- 8 they adhered to the setback requirement, the pool
- 9 would be at least 30-feet away. I'm assuming that
- 10 their porch is 15-feet from the sideline, from
- 11 their sideline, and we have a 15-foot setback on
- 12 the pool.
- MS. MOLNAR: Is the retaining wall
- and the landscaping sufficient for noise reduction
- and buffering? Because when you have a pool and a
- 16 lot of people in your backyard, it might generate
- 17 noise. Does the wall and the landscaping cut
- 18 back, cut down on some of the noise?
- MR. WATSON: Yeah. If you want, I
- 20 can put the picture back up. We are about 9-feet
- lower than them. You do have sufficient
- 22 landscaping. But keep in mind this is a
- residential area. These are things that your
- ordinance anticipates, and they are normal -- I'm
- 25 mean you're not going to have a pool party every

- 1 night. Once in a while, you may have a larger
- 2 gathering. For the most part, I don't know, if
- 3 your kids are like my kids, they use the pool from
- 4 Memorial Day to the Fourth of July and after that,
- 5 they just ignored it. They were doing other
- 6 things. You know, you pay for the chemicals all
- 7 year, but maybe three or four times they'll go in
- 8 it after the Fourth of July and that's about it.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Watson, I've
- 10 got a couple of questions for you. I'll start
- 11 with a simple one. The opening in the retaining
- wall along the neighbor's property there where it
- 13 starts and stops, I'm looking at your Sheet 2 of
- 2, and I see that you're proposing a new fence
- 15 where that would face Lawrence Avenue in that
- 16 corner of the home. And then there's a fence that
- 17 runs across -- I'm assuming that's a new fence as
- 18 well -- that's running across the front of the one
- 19 section of retaining wall. And then what happens
- 20 at the opening? Because if you look at one of the
- 21 photographs, one that's in our package as well as
- one of the ones that you had posted up before
- 23 where I had questioned that stockade fence that's
- existing, it looks like it stops in that area.
- 25 MR. WATSON: Well, let me zoom in a

- 1 little bit. You're still seeing the site plan?
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 3 MR. WATSON: Let me know zoom in a
- 4 little bit. This area right here is where you're
- 5 talking about. We're proposing a new fence to
- 6 come off of the house, up to the retaining wall,
- 7 stay on our side or the northerly side of the
- 8 retaining wall, come along to the end, and then
- 9 connect to the fence that's up above that
- 10 retaining wall and runs between the two pieces of
- 11 retaining wall here. The fence that's new will
- 12 start here where my cursor is, come down along the
- edge of the retaining wall, along the face of the
- 14 retaining wall, and put back into the house. And
- 15 that's for your building department. We have to
- secure the pool. How they connect, I'm assuming
- 17 the building department will be very involved in.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I was curious as
- 19 to what currently was between the opening, and
- you're telling me there is an existing fence there
- 21 now?
- 22 MR. WATSON: Yeah. There's a fence
- 23 here in between these two ends of the retaining
- 24 wall, and it's shown in the photograph. I can put
- it back up if you need it.

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1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: That's okay. No
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- 2 problem. It's fine. I have no issue with that.
- 3 The other question I had -- let's see here -- you
- 4 mentioned in your application that you were
- 5 removing a portion of the existing porch. Can you
- 6 please explain to us where that would be? Because
- 7 it doesn't appear clear on any of the plans of
- 8 what exactly is being removed.
- 9 MR. WATSON: Hold on. I'm going to
- 10 stop sharing and come back in with the photo.
- 11 This is the area in the back, and this is the
- 12 portion of the porch where my cursor is. To the
- left of that, they're going to take that off and
- regrade it a little bit so that you can get down
- 15 from the porch that's underneath the roof and the
- 16 overhand here and walk and transaction to the pool
- 17 area. So they're going to take some of this off
- 18 up here where these two flower pots are and it's
- 19 going to be graded a little different. It may
- 20 have a step-down. I don't have the whole thing in
- 21 front of me right now, but this is where you're
- 22 talking about is right here.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: So it's basically,
- 24 a patio area.
- 25 MR. WATSON: Right. They're just

- 1 going to remove it and regrade it.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: While you have
- 3 that photograph up; if you look behind the soccer
- 4 net there, you see the fence I'm referring to.
- 5 MR. WATSON: Correct.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: It looks like a
- 7 6-foot high stockade fence which is wood in color.
- 8 What is below that?
- 9 MR. WATSON: That looks like it is
- 10 part of --
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah. Right
- 12 there.
- MR. WATSON: It looks like they may
- 14 continue -- it may be wall -- I can't really tell.
- 15 But this is the curved part of the retaining wall
- 16 that you see on the site plan, that's this area
- 17 right here. This may be a neighbor's retaining
- 18 wall that's underneath that fence.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: That's fine.
- 20 Thank you. You've testified that in your expert
- opinion it doesn't appear that this particular
- 22 project is going to create any additional
- stormwater concerns as far as you can see?
- 24 MR. WATSON: Yeah. I mean we've
- 25 talked about this before. When you take the pool

- 1 into consideration you're increasing the
- 2 impervious coverage on the project by 120-square
- 3 feet, basically. Three sheets of plywood is
- 4 144-square feet. So on a lot that's
- 5 120,000-square feet, you're about 1% maybe.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Based on the 7,200
- 7 that's allowed and 7,823 that you're requesting,
- 8 my calculations come out -- which is a difference
- 9 of 623-square feet -- my calculations come out to
- be, approximately, 9%, 8.6-and change. I'll round
- 11 that off to 9% over on the coverage.
- MR. WATSON: My argument is if you
- take the pool out of that, we're only 119-square
- 14 feet over because the pool is 509-square feet and
- we have to count that in the impervious
- 16 calculation.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Well, currently,
- 18 it's grass. So that's impervious coverage.
- 19 MR. WATSON: You do have the other
- 20 patio extension here. You can see where the seats
- 21 are. This whole thing is probably -- this is
- definitely coming out because this is where the
- 23 pool is going to be. See where my cursor is
- 24 moving?
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.

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1
                   MR. WATSON:
                                There's another patio
 2
      back here where they have I guess outdoor
 3
      furniture sitting. So that's all coming out and
      just going to be replaced; like I said earlier.
 5
                   CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Two quick items
 6
      and then I'll ask if any other Board Members have
 7
      questions. I noticed from the renderings that
 8
      were submitted with our package which basically
 9
      show the layout of the proposed pool, the proposed
10
      seating around the pool. These were created by
      Seasonal World which I assume is the pool
11
12
      installer/contractor. It shows a fair amount of
13
      seating basically along both -- I'm going to call
14
      it the rear of the pool -- as well as the one side
15
      of the pool. Again, based on my quick
16
      calculations here, that one patio area which is
17
      12-feet wide shown on your plan there is about
18
      425-square feet, and then the area up against the
19
      rear retaining wall is about another 288-square
20
      feet. So that's about 700-square feet. And since
21
      we're over about 600-and whatever I had mentioned
22
      before, 623, is there any consideration or would
      you consider eliminating a portion of that patio
23
24
      area/seating area, whatever you want to call it,
25
      to kind of bring us a little bit closer to where
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- 1 we need to be so that we get as close to
- 2 7,200-square feet as possible?
- MR. WATSON: I understand. A
- 4 suggestion, and it's just a suggestion at this
- 5 point, do you see where my cursor is?
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 7 MR. WATSON: If you drew a line from
- 8 there to this corner here, that would allow you
- 9 the 3-feet around the pool and give you the
- 10 ability to walk all the way around the pool and
- 11 maintain it. That may help. You would have to
- 12 check with the applicant; they're up behind me.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: One other quick
- 14 question and then I'll let you go. The retaining
- 15 wall -- and Don, I think this question you may
- 16 need to help me out here a little -- as I
- mentioned earlier, and as Mr. Watson confirmed,
- the retaining wall along the rear of the property
- in the far corner, at its highest point is,
- approximately, 7-feet high. Is there something in
- our ordinance that says any retaining wall above
- 22 5-feet requires a variance? Is that correct or
- 23 incorrect?
- 24 MR. SAMMET: It's never -- retaining
- 25 walls have a 4-foot maximum height. You can tier

- 1 a retaining wall. So you get the 4-feet and then
- 2 you have to step the next section of wall back.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: This is a 7-foot
- 4 wall. It's, obviously, higher than 4-feet. How
- 5 does that come into play here?
- 6 MR. SAMMET: Right. Well, I'm not
- 7 sure who it belongs to.
- 8 MR. WATSON: It's definitely our
- 9 wall.
- 10 MR. SAMMET: It may predate the
- 11 ordinance. I'm not sure when it was installed.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: It's definitely
- their wall because their arborvitaes are on top of
- 14 the wall -- you know, behind the wall.
- 15 MR. WATSON: Do you have the plan
- from 2009? Fine did they submit anything? I
- don't have anything other than what you see here.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah. And there's
- 19 nothing -- I read through the variance that was
- granted back in 2009, and it doesn't mention
- 21 anything regarding the height of the retaining
- 22 wall.
- MR. HEHL: I agree, Mr. Chairman. I
- looked at that also and I didn't see anything in
- 25 there. But again, we're not changing that, and as

- 1 Don mentioned, it may have predated the ordinance.
- MR. SAMMET: Yeah. I don't know
- 3 when it was put in.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I just wanted to
- 5 bring that up. Okay. Are there any Board Members
- 6 that have any other questions of Mr. Watson at
- 7 this time before we bring in the applicants and
- 8 then open it up to any public comments? Any Board
- 9 Members have any other questions for Mr. Watson at
- 10 this time?
- MS. HROBLAK: I have two questions,
- 12 Frank.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Sure.
- 14 MS. HROBLAK: One is for Mr. Watson
- 15 and one is for Don. I was curious as to if you
- 16 knew the invert level of the yard inlet drain
- that's over in the south end of the pool and where
- 18 does it go?
- MR. WATSON: That, I don't know.
- 20 That might be a better question for the homeowner.
- 21 A lot of times landscapers will put something like
- that in and tie it into the pipe that services all
- the gutters and leaders that come down along the
- 24 house and pipe it out to the street. We did not
- 25 see anything. It may come out of the wall. You

- 1 can still see the site plan; correct?
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. WATSON: It may come out over in
- 4 an area over here and we just couldn't find it.
- 5 It looks like something a landscaper would do.
- 6 It's small so it's probably one of those Home
- 7 Depot-type inlets where you just put the pipe into
- 8 one side and you pop a grate onto the top and use
- 9 it to drain a problem area in your yard.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Are there any dry
- 11 wells that you know of on-site, Mr. Watson?
- 12 MR. WATSON: Not that I know of.
- 13 Again, the homeowner is coming up behind us. It
- would probably be a better question for him.
- 15 MS. HROBLAK: So, yeah, I mean at
- 16 the bottom of retaining walls it's frequently a
- 17 wet situation, so I was curious if it was draining
- 18 some spongy grass area or if it actually served a
- 19 function and if you were going to be tying into
- it. It looks like your contour goes around it.
- 21 It's still going to pick up some of the backyard
- 22 runoff, so I'd like to know how it plays into it.
- MR. WATSON: Yeah. We're trying to
- 24 swale this all the way around this area and then
- 25 along the southerly line out to the Lawrence

- 1 Avenue gutter.
- MS. HROBLAK: Along, at grade.
- 3 You're just trying to drain along the grass.
- 4 MR. WATSON: Right.
- 5 MS. HROBLAK: My second question is
- for Don. Don, is there any requirement for the
- 7 level of the, I would say, the surface elevation
- 8 of the water in a pool? Does it have to be a
- 9 certain amount of inches below what they're
- 10 showing for coping elevation or the adjacent patio
- 11 elevation?
- MR. SAMMET: It's certainly not in
- zoning. I wouldn't be familiar with any
- 14 construction code requirements.
- MS. HROBLAK: Okay.
- 16 MR. WATSON: I know from experience,
- typically, it's between 8-inches and a foot
- 18 because you have the skimmers pulling the water
- 19 off. The coping elevation is the tile that goes
- 20 around the trim. And that's the highest point of
- 21 the pool and the deck basically because we grade
- 22 away from that in all circumstances.
- 23 MS. HROBLAK: Yeah. I'm just
- 24 curious as to how much detention volume is
- 25 actually in the pool. Because some pools are only

- 1 a couple of inches down.
- MR. WATSON: The forever pools are,
- 3 but like this that's self-contained, you get at
- 4 least 8-inches on something like this. To be
- 5 safe, figure 6-inches. So do 6 times --
- MS. HROBLAK: Yeah, it's a
- 7 substantial volume. Also, are the chairs that are
- 8 inside that pool shown in the drawing, are they
- 9 built into the pool?
- 10 MR. WATSON: That would be a
- 11 question for the homeowner. I just take the box
- 12 and put it on.
- MS. HROBLAK: Those are really cool.
- 14 Those are all my questions. Thanks.
- MR. WATSON: You're welcome.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Any other
- 17 questions for Mr. Watson from the Board? Why
- don't we ask if there's anyone in the public that
- 19 has any questions specifically Mr. Watson? You'll
- 20 have a chance further on if you have any general
- 21 comments about the application. But are there any
- 22 specific questions from anyone in the audience for
- 23 Mr. Watson as to his testimony? If there are,
- 24 please raise your hand virtually and Mr. Sammet
- 25 will let you in.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: I see a
- 2 Mr. Michael Melino. Mr. Melino, we should be able
- 3 to hear you now.
- 4 MR. MELINO: Thank you for this
- 5 invitation.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Melino, please
- 7 state your name and address for the record.
- MR. MELINO: Sure. It's
- 9 Michael Melino, 980 Lawrence Avenue. I'm the
- 10 property adjacent to the one in question; Lot 32
- 11 on Lawrence Avenue.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Melino, please
- 13 raise your right hand.
- 14 MICHAEL MELINO, having been duly
- 15 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 16 MR. MELINO: My main issue I quess
- is the proposed topography and impermeability of
- the proposed pool area. Currently, as stated, I'm
- on the south side which is surrounded by a wall
- that's currently existing now with a fence. The
- 21 topography as I see it, and I haven't had a chance
- 22 to really study this, but the topography as I see
- 23 it now goes from 242 down to 237. And as I heard
- 24 Mr. Watson explain that the "swalling" as he
- 25 called it or mentioned was going towards Lawrence

- 1 Avenue which means it will be funneling through
- 2 this chokepoint between the wall that currently
- 3 exists on the south side and the house which is
- 4 adjacent. And if you look at the topography, it
- 5 goes from 242 -- I don't know if these are in feet
- 6 or what -- down to 237. Currently, I've
- 7 experienced during heavy rainstorms basically
- 8 erosion in my mulch which is adjacent past the
- 9 final part of the wall. So what happens is water
- 10 flows between the wall and the south side and that
- 11 arched wall that you see in the front. So there's
- 12 a point in, so you can see, there's actually a
- pitch. It goes from 242 down to 237. And between
- these two walls, the arched wall in the front and
- 15 the side wall on our property line, there's a
- 16 water flow during heavy rain. I don't know if
- it's coming off of the drain spouts of the house,
- but I was concerned with the proposed
- impermeability of the backyard as it's currently
- 20 proposed and the effect of the topography that we
- 21 currently see on this gradient map. So I wish
- that could be addressed. And whether there's any
- 23 intention to put storm cellars or some kind of
- storm drainage in this chock point here between
- 25 the wall on the south side and the curved arched

- 1 fence in the front.
- MR. WATSON: Right now we're
- 3 proposing to get rid of the inlet that's there.
- 4 You can see the callout on our site plan. We can
- 5 leave it there. It's graded around it. We're
- 6 just unsure about the quality of it right now,
- 7 whether the pipe is usable. Like I stated before,
- 8 my assumption is this is something a landscaper
- 9 put in. The volume that it would handle would not
- 10 be huge, but it would handle some of the water
- 11 that comes down in between here. But with the
- 12 construction and the regrading of the swale, the
- water shouldn't migrate past the low point that
- we're creating. You can see those 241-50 where my
- 15 cursor is, it goes to 241 right here down to 240,
- 16 and then down to 239. And it's not a defined
- ditch, but it is a low point that you can manage
- 18 when you grade after construction and create a low
- 19 point to manage and push the water out that way in
- 20 between the retaining wall and the house. Nothing
- 21 should be pushed onto you with this grading plan?
- MR. MELINO: Currently, I don't know
- what the existing topography is at the points that
- 24 we're talking about here between 231.5 and 239.
- 25 But I can tell you that currently, I'm

- 1 experiencing some erosion on my property between
- 2 the arched fence and the front of the arch facing
- 3 Lawrence Avenue and the side wall on the south
- 4 side of the property. So in that chokepoint there
- 5 --
- 6 MR. WATSON: (Indicating.) Right.
- 7 MR. MELINO: Right in there, yes.
- 8 And what it does, it flows into my property. And
- 9 I have a lot of mulch that's covering with flower
- 10 arrangements in this area on my property side that
- 11 gets eroded from a heavy rain currently. What I
- was concerned about is that if we're increasing
- the impermeability of the backyard and you're
- 14 talking about a pinch modification, I'm wondering
- if that's going to exacerbate what I'm currently
- 16 experiencing.
- MR. WATSON: I'm going to switch to
- 18 the existing conditions plan if you bear with me a
- 19 second.
- MR. HEHL: One thing I can add while
- 21 Mr. Watson is doing that, Mr. Melino. As we
- indicated, or I indicated in the beginning that we
- 23 would work with the township or the town engineer
- 24 to address and work on additional detention based
- 25 upon the increase in the impervious. And now that

- 1 this is good being brought to our attention
- 2 because we can look into that and address those
- 3 concerns while we do that.
- 4 MR. MELINO: Okay. I mean you can
- 5 understand my point here by seeing how narrow the
- interface is between the south side wall between
- 7 our property lines and this curved arch wall in
- 8 the front. So basically we're acting as a
- 9 funnel-effect coming through here that currently
- 10 exists now. Only during heavy rains. I don't
- 11 experience it during normal rainfalls. But I was
- wondering if it's actually coming off the
- gutters/downspouts or whether it's just natural
- runoff from the property which is even more
- 15 problematic and could become more impermeable.
- 16 MR. WATSON: The only thing I can
- say is if you're experiencing erosion on your
- 18 side, I don't see a focal point where anything is
- 19 directed towards you. It looks like it's set up
- 20 right now for a sheet flow type of condition where
- 21 the water is not concentrated. And that's usually
- 22 where you get the runoff when you have a
- 23 concentrated flow. It may require a little bit of
- 24 maintenance on our client's side or it may require
- 25 a little maintenance on yours. From the contours

- that I see on this, I can't pinpoint a problem
- 2 area. But these are grading plans produced for
- 3 the pool to show everybody how we're going to
- 4 handle the runoff. If you have an existing
- 5 problem, it may not show up on this.
- 6 MR. MELINO: No, I'm questioning
- 7 whether you're going to exacerbate the existing
- 8 situation. By the way, you had described the
- 9 swalling of the topography that's going to exist
- 10 after you do the patio installation because then
- 11 it's going to focal more water down between our
- two property lines into that area that I have
- concern. And I'm probably 15- to 20-feet below
- their property. So I'm on a hill actually below
- 15 them. So actually, there's a natural tendency for
- 16 water flow to come down, but because of the walls
- along the greenery exists between our two
- 18 properties, I'm okay except for this interval here
- 19 that you see between these two walls. And it
- flows because it's angled towards my property.
- MR. HEHL: Well, again, we can offer
- 22 --
- MR. WATSON: No, I understand your
- 24 concern but --
- MR. HEHL: I was going to say,

- 1 Mr. Watson, we would commit to having our
- 2 engineers review this. And usually what you find
- 3 in these conditions, particularly, when there's
- 4 going to be oversight by the town engineer in
- 5 conjunction with our engineers would address that.
- And we see the area that you're pointing to and if
- 7 it requires additional drainage or detention in
- 8 that area -- the applicants will be up next, but I
- 9 don't think they'll have any problem in addressing
- 10 that.
- 11 MR. MELINO: Yeah. I don't think
- it's a difficult issue. But you can realize the
- topography changed from the back which is 242 down
- 14 to 237 which is towards the front right at that,
- 15 basically, opening between the two walls. So it's
- 16 basically is a 5-foot drop.
- MR. WATSON: Right. And I
- 18 understand. Just keep in mind though that as I
- 19 testified to prior, you're looking at a larger
- area in the back that's being covered, but
- 21 509-square feet of that is going to be the pool
- where nothing is going to run off.
- 23 MR. MELINO: I understand that
- 24 piece, but I'm concerned about the size of the
- patio as runoff, which is going to be expanded.

- 1 MR. HEHL: As I say, Mr. Melino,
- 2 we're committed to look into that and have a
- 3 design to address those concerns.
- 4 MR. WATSON: Sorry about that.
- 5 MR. MELINO: No. No. It's fine. I
- 6 just wanted to bring it to your attention because
- 7 I didn't want an exacerbation of an already
- 8 existing condition. And if we can remediate that,
- 9 it's to everyone's benefit.
- MR. WATSON: I agree, yeah.
- MR. HEHL: Thank you.
- MR. MELINO: No, thank you.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 14 Mr. Melino. Anyone else from the audience have
- 15 any questions for Mr. Watson at this time? Please
- 16 raise your hand virtually and Mr. Sammet will
- 17 allow you into the meeting.
- MR. SAMMET: I don't see anyone,
- 19 Mr. Chairman.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 21 Mr. Sammet. Mr. Hehl, would you like to continue
- 22 perhaps with having your applicants --
- MR. HEHL: Yes. And I see -- I
- think they're together; Giuseppe and Lina.
- 25 MR. DIPIETRO: Yes. Hello.

- 1 MR. HEHL: You'll have to put your
- 2 camera on, though.
- 3 MR. DIPIETRO: Okay.
- 4 MS. FERRARO: Hi.
- 5 MR. DIPIETRO: Good evening.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Good evening. How
- 7 are you?
- MR. DIPIETRO: Good. How are you?
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Can you please --
- 10 I'm sorry. Go ahead, Mr. Hehl.
- 11 MR. HEHL: I was going to say first
- 12 you're going to have to be sworn in. I'm assuming
- we can do them together?
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes. We'll do
- 15 them together. Please state your name and address
- 16 for the record.
- MR. DIPIETRO: Giuseppe DiPietro,
- 18 300 Roanoke Road, Westfield, New Jersey.
- MS. FERRARO: Lina Ferraro-DiPietro,
- 300 Roanoke Road, Westfield, New Jersey.
- 21 GIUSEPPE DIPIETRO and LINE FERRARO,
- having been duly sworn, were examined and
- 23 testified as follows:
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please proceed,
- 25 Mr. Hehl.

- 1 MR. HEHL: And I think whomever -- I
- 2 was told that Giuseppe is going to take the lead
- on this, but if he does anything wrong, I'm sure
- 4 Lina is going to hit him.
- 5 BY MR. HEHL:
- 6 Q. Mr. DiPietro, if you could just --
- 7 you've heard my opening statement -- if you could
- 8 give a little background on your life here in
- 9 Westfield and why you feel the addition of this
- 10 pool is important to you and your family?
- 11 A. Got it. Like Steve said, we have
- multiple companies in town. Our family has been
- here for many years. I've also been a resident in
- 14 Westfield for 25-years. And with Covid and
- 15 everything that went on, it obviously brought to
- 16 our attention that we needed a place for our
- family to just be together and spend some time.
- And being in Westfield, being in the restaurant
- business, summertime is very busy, so we really
- don't go away, we don't have a shore house.
- 21 Summertime we're usually -- I'm usually here
- working, so it's important for us to have a place
- 23 where I can spend some time with my kids. I have
- three children, and I'm down the street, and so
- 25 it's important for us to have that quality time

- 1 together. We're not looking to have pool parties
- 2 and 30 kids over. I'm just looking to come home
- 3 and hang out with the family and relax for a bit
- 4 either in between lunch and dinner at the
- 5 restaurant or on my day off. So again, having the
- 6 pool is important. We hired these professionals
- 7 and everyone to show us where we could put the
- 8 pool. And this is the only place where the pool
- 9 fits. So there's no other place we can put it.
- 10 And, you know, speaking with our neighbors,
- 11 whatever they need, we're more than willing to do
- 12 whatever we have to do to make it right. We don't
- want any runoff on any of the neighbors or want
- 14 privacy. We want the privacy also. So we're here
- 15 to work with the community to make it fair and not
- 16 be an annoyance to anyone.
- MR. HEHL: As you indicated, the
- 18 concerns of Mr. Melino and the increase of the
- impervious coverage, you have no problem working
- with your engineer and the town engineer to
- 21 provide any detention or direction of water flow?
- 22 A. Yeah. That's no problem.
- Q. Great. And again, I think we did
- talk about it based upon Mr. Sammet's report and
- actually, practical purposes, this is the only

- 1 spot that this can go; correct?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. There was a question before -- and I
- 4 know on our little text chat -- Chairman Fusaro
- 5 was looking at, in that picture, that was part of
- 6 a retaining wall; correct?
- 7 A. Right, yeah.
- 8 Q. I thought so.
- 9 A. There was also a question about a
- 10 drain back there. There is a large drain back
- 11 there right now in that area that you guys were
- 12 talking about. It's probably about 4-feet,
- 13 4-by-3-feet. It's big. And that goes down -- I
- 14 believe it ties into Lawrence Ave.
- 15 Q. But again, you'll work with your
- 16 engineers to make sure it's all functioning
- 17 properly?
- 18 A. Yeah. Correct.
- 19 Q. And you're otherwise committed to
- 20 all the improvements -- I know having been back
- there, a beautifully landscaped yard with
- 22 substantial buffering -- all of that will be
- 23 maintained?
- A. Correct.
- 25 Q. Great.

- 1 MR. HEHL: Mr. Chairman, I have no
- 2 further preliminary questions of Mr. DiPietro and
- 3 Mrs. Ferraro.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. I have
- 5 one quick question. You had mentioned,
- 6 Mr. DiPietro, that that existing inlet that's
- 7 shown on the plan, I'm assuming that's the one
- 8 that Mr. Watson was referring to previously that
- 9 on his plan is calling to be removed. Are we
- 10 talking about the same inlet or is there an
- 11 additional one?
- 12 MR. DIPIETRO: I'm not sure if
- 13 that's the same one. But if that's -- there is a
- drain back there now. If that's the one we're
- 15 talking about, you'd have to ask him.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Let's assume
- that's the same drain that we're talking about,
- 18 and if we assume what you testified is correct and
- 19 that drain is currently being piped out to
- 20 Lawrence Avenue. Mr. Watson, I'm assuming we can
- 21 possibly intercept that drain in the area that
- Mr. Melino is concerned about, add an additional
- lawn drain into that pipping which will alleviate
- the sheet flow onto Mr. Melino's property, and
- just put it back into that drainage pipe and

- 1 continue it out to Lawrence Avenue. Would you
- 2 agree that that would work?
- MR. WATSON: Yeah, it would work.
- 4 We'd have to actually get a little input from
- 5 Mr. Melino to see if he knows if there's a
- defined, a concentrated flow coming onto him.
- 7 Because that's where you have to pick up in the
- 8 inlet. If you have a sheet flow, an inlet is not
- 9 going to help.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Correct. They
- 11 must create a slight swale around that inlet in
- that area between those two retaining walls.
- MR. WATSON: Yeah. We can add
- another inlet too if it goes through that area.
- 15 MR. DIPIETRO: Yeah. Whatever we
- 16 have to do to address that so it doesn't affect
- that area or to fix whatever area is going on now,
- 18 absolutely, we'll be onboard and willing to do
- 19 that.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. And as
- I had mentioned previously, and I believe
- 22 Mr. Watson had also mentioned, as I'm sure several
- other Board Members will chime in shortly, we're
- 24 always concerned about overages in coverage. I'm
- assuming that if we were to request that a portion

- of the patio around the pool be removed, for
- 2 example, the area that Mr. Watson suggested along
- 3 the rear of the pool area furthest from the home,
- 4 you would be willing to shrink that area down
- 5 somewhat?
- MR. DIPIETRO: Correct.
- 7 MS. FERRARO: Can you show us what
- 8 that is again? Where that is?
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: If look at
- 10 Mr. Watson's plan, okay, Mr. Watson if you take
- 11 that corner where the cursor currently is and you
- draw a straight line all the way down alongside
- the pool connected to that 3-foot dimension there.
- 14 You'd basically be eliminating that rear portion
- 15 of the patio. So you'd have a walkway around the
- 16 pool. Your seating area would now remain in the
- 17 12-foot section across the top and in the area
- 18 along the home.
- MS. FERRARO: Okay. I'm just trying
- 20 to visualize that. So then we wouldn't put chairs
- on that side; is that correct?
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Correct. You
- could put chairs, but they'd be on the lawn.
- MS. FERRARO: So it would be 3-feet
- 25 then around the pool --

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Correct.
- MS. FERRARO: -- on that side?
- 3 MR. WATSON: Yeah. Along this side
- 4 here would all be 3-feet.
- 5 MS. FERRARO: And how much is it
- 6 now?
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: It's 11 at the
- 8 widest point.
- 9 MS. FERRARO: Okay. We could figure
- 10 that out.
- MR. DIPIETRO: We can figure that
- 12 out. It's no problem.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah, so you
- 14 basically would have a walkway around the pool
- instead of a seating area there. And in my rough
- 16 calculations, you'd be eliminating, give-or-take,
- just under 200-square feet. So since we've over
- 18 600 now, that puts you around 400 over. So we're
- 19 getting closer.
- MS. FERRARO: Okay.
- 21 MR. DIPIETRO: That's fine.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I don't have any
- other questions for the applicants. Do any Board
- 24 Members have any questions for the applicants at
- 25 this time? I'm seeing none. We will thank

- 1 Mr. DiPietro and Ms. Ferraro for their testimony,
- 2 and move on. Actually, before I do that, is there
- 3 anyone from the public that would like to address
- 4 the applicants at this time? Please raise your
- 5 hand virtually and Mr. Sammet will let you into
- 6 the meeting.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: We have someone who is
- 8 coming up as "Zoom User" so I need to ask their
- 9 name.
- MR. NATHANSON: Am I unmuted?
- MR. SAMMET: Yes, we can hear you,
- 12 sir.
- MR. NATHANSON: Hi. My name is
- 14 David Nathanson. I'm their backdoor neighbor.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please state your
- 16 name and address for the record.
- MR. NATHANSON: My name is
- 18 David Nathanson. I live at 1 Breeze Knoll Drive.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Nathanson. I
- 20 recognize that you had appeared before us a couple
- of months ago.
- MR. NATHANSON: I did.
- CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please raise your
- hand.
- DAVID NATHANSON, having been duly

- 1 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please proceed,
- 3 Mr. Nathanson.
- 4 MR. NATHANSON: All I'd like to say
- 5 is that I know the Ferraros for a long time in
- 6 town. I grew up here myself, so I don't have to
- 7 talk about what they've been as an asset to our
- 8 community, but more importantly, as a neighbor,
- 9 the DiPietros have been great. In the past,
- anytime they've had any parties or whatever,
- 11 they've always been respectful. They're great
- neighbors. And being in a 24-hour/7-days-a-week
- business myself and having young kids, there's
- 14 nothing better than having time with your family
- in your own oasis because you don't get to go away
- 16 much. So as a person, as a neighbor and someone
- that endures the type of lifestyle that he has
- 18 working as much as we do, I think the pool will be
- 19 great for them and their family. Especially
- during these times in the world we live in, it's
- 21 very important and special.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I appreciate your
- time and your comments. Thank you so much.
- MR. DIPIETRO: Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Have a good

- 1 evening. Anyone else, Mr. Sammet?
- MR. SAMMET: We have Mr. Reid. Mr.
- 3 Reid, we should be able to hear you now.
- 4 MR. REID: Yes. Hi. How are you?
- 5 I just wanted to give the support --
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I'm sorry. Hold
- 7 on. Please state your name and address for the
- 8 record.
- 9 MR. REID: Andrew Reid, 960 Lawrence
- 10 Avenue.
- 11 ANDREW REID, having been duly sworn,
- 12 was examined and testified as follows:
- 13 MR. REID: I just wanted to give
- 14 them our support for their application for a
- 15 variance.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 17 Mr. Reid. And you're located on Lawrence Avenue
- 18 across the street?
- 19 MR. REID: South side of them on the
- 20 other side of Mr. Melino.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- We appreciate your comment and your support of the
- 23 application. Thank you.
- MR. SAMMET: We also have Mike Wyse.
- Mr. Wyse, we should be able to hear you.

- 1 MR. WYSE: Yes. Can you hear me?
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes, we can hear
- 3 you. Mr. Wyse, please state your name and address
- 4 for the record.
- 5 MR. WYSE: Michael Wyse, 945
- 6 Lawrence Ave.
- 7 MICHAEL WYSE, having been duly
- 8 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please proceed,
- 10 Mr. Wyse.
- 11 MR. WYSE: Like Mr. Reid, I live
- 12 across the street from Mr. Reid. My wife Marie
- and I both fully support the application for
- variance for both Giuseppe and Line.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 16 We appreciate your time.
- MR. WYSE: Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Sammet, anyone
- 19 else?
- 20 MR. SAMMET: Yes. We have a
- 21 Mr. David Barbosa. Mr. Barbosa, we should be able
- to hear you now.
- CHAIRMAN FUSARO: You're on mute,
- Mr. Barbosa. There we go.
- MS. BARBOSA: It's actually

- 1 Mrs. Barbosa. How are you?
- MR. BARBOSA: David and Lorena
- 3 Barbosa, 305 Roanoke Road, Westfield.
- 4 DAVID BARBOSA and LORENA BARBOSA,
- 5 having been duly sworn, were examined and
- 6 testified as follows:
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please proceed,
- 8 Mr. and Mrs. Barbosa.
- 9 MS. BARBOSA: Hi. So we live around
- 10 the corner from the DiPietros and we did something
- 11 similar here at our house about five years ago.
- 12 Also, a similar situation. We own David Realty
- Group here in town, so as you all know, real
- 14 estate is seven days a week, just the like the
- 15 restaurant business, and we were not finding time
- 16 as a family to spend together. Actually, we would
- 17 make it to some of the town pools, but as soon as
- 18 we'd get there, we'd have to leave because we had
- 19 to come home and negotiate offers. So we got to
- the point where we said we need to have something
- 21 where we can spend time with our family. So it's
- going to be a lot of fun. I hope you have many
- happy memories with your family and good luck.
- MR. BARBOSA: And we're in full
- 25 support. They're great neighbors. We're in full

- 1 support of it.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Have a
- 3 good evening. Anyone else, Mr. Sammet?
- 4 MR. SAMMET: No. I see no one else,
- 5 Mr. Chair.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 7 We're going to close that portion of the meeting.
- 8 Do any Board Members have any questions for
- 9 Mr. DiPietro and Ms. Ferraro?
- 10 MS. RAZIN: Can I just ask a quick
- 11 clarification? If the variance and the
- 12 application is approved that Mr. Hehl and
- 13 Mr. Watson just confirm off the line with me the
- 14 exact variance for coverage that would then be
- 15 required? Understanding that it's, approximately
- in the (indiscernible) you know, that it's
- 17 approximate, but if somebody could just reach out
- 18 to me following the meeting to confirm that.
- MR. HEHL: No problem. I'll get the
- 20 permit and give you a shout-out tomorrow.
- MS. RAZIN: Thank you. I appreciate
- 22 it.
- MR. HEHL: No, thank you.
- CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Hehl, anything
- else you'd like to add at this time?

- 1 MR. HEHL: We have no further
- 2 witnesses. I think the public has spoken already.
- 3 Just very briefly, again, this is a unique
- 4 situation with the pool with a 15-feet rear yard,
- 5 I think the location is well-sited. We do meet
- all the setback criteria for the pool, so it's
- 7 generally just the location. As far as the
- 8 coverage variance, again, we meet the overall
- 9 coverage as far as the percentage below the 40%
- and with the commitment of the applicant to remove
- 11 that area, and we'll certainly confirm the amount
- 12 of that reduction, that we feel that both the
- variance for the location of the pool and the
- 14 slight increase in impervious coverage has been
- 15 granted. And, as always, truly appreciate the
- 16 time and effort this Board puts into these
- applications and your Board professionals,
- 18 particularly, Mr. Sammet. We appreciate your
- 19 time.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 21 Mr. Hehl. If there are no other questions for
- 22 Mr. Watson or the applicants of Mr. Hehl, we'll
- close that portion of the meeting and open up to
- 24 Board discussion.
- MS. MOLNAR: I'm sorry. I had one

- 1 question for Mr. Watson. The schedule of general
- 2 requirements that's in our application, could you
- 3 amend that to show, to reflect the variance that
- 4 you need in the 12.04G? It says "no variance" but
- 5 you do need a variance for 12.04G.
- MR. WATSON: Sure. Not a problem.
- 7 We'll take care of that.
- MS. MOLNAR: Okay. Thank you.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: As I said, we'll
- 10 open it up to -- close it to public comments and
- 11 so on and open it up to Board discussion. As you
- 12 heard from the applicants, from their
- professionals, from some of their neighbors.
- Everyone seems to be in favor of the application.
- 15 As I mentioned, I would like to see the area
- 16 reduced somewhat. The applicants have agreed to
- 17 reduce that one portion of the patio currently
- 18 shown on the plan which is going to be reduced by,
- 19 approximately, 200-square feet. Mr. Watson will
- 20 calculate the exact square footage and provide it
- 21 to our Board attorney and to Mr. Hehl, so if the
- 22 application is approved, it will be reflected in
- the resolution. I don't have any additional
- 24 comments -- well, I take that back. One thing
- 25 that I would suggest as I mentioned earlier is

- 1 since Mr. Melino is concerned about the runoff and
- 2 there is quite a steep grade change between the
- 3 current property and Mr. Melino's property, so
- 4 perhaps working with adding a condition that the
- 5 applicants do work with our engineering
- 6 department. Mr. Hehl has already agreed to that
- 7 as have the applicant. And my suggestion of
- 8 possibly adding an inlet or a yard drain.
- 9 Probably an inlet would be better in that area
- 10 between the two existing retaining walls to pick
- 11 up some of that runoff which will hopefully
- 12 alleviate the problem that Mr. Melino is having
- during heavy rainfall. It would certainly help
- 14 it. Other than that, my only other question was I
- 15 think that we have not really addressed -- nor do
- 16 I know whether we need to address it or not -- is
- 17 that 7-foot high retaining wall. But since we
- 18 don't know if it was there prior to this home
- 19 being even built, I honestly don't know, I guess
- 20 we'll kind of leave that at bay.
- MR. MASCIALE: I don't have an issue
- 22 with it, Frank, based on the change in elevation
- in that area is so close to it. It's really not
- 24 sticking out in my mind that far because the
- 25 elevation is changing so much, and you know, I

- 1 think it was built there for a purpose. And it's
- 2 not really that much area, the 7-feet. It quickly
- 3 slopes down. Plus, I think it was built that way
- 4 for a purpose and serves a purpose.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. That's
- 6 fine. Any other --
- 7 MS. HROBLAK: Frank, the retaining
- 8 walls above 4-feet are usually considered needing
- 9 engineering design. So that's really in my mind
- 10 the biggest concern with going above 4-feet. I'm
- 11 not sure what the purpose of the variance -- maybe
- 12 so it gets reviewed. But on most municipalities
- above 4-feet, you've got to get engineering --
- MR. MASCIALE: Yeah. I think you're
- 15 right, Allyson. Where I've seen it, people use it
- 16 as kind of a buffer or a shielding; almost like a
- 17 fence.
- MS. HROBLAK: But when they exceed a
- 19 certain height, the earth pressures gets high and
- you need to have reinforcement and proper drainage
- 21 and back fill. So that's usually where the 4-foot
- 22 kicks in. I'm not sure if Don can speak to the
- 4-foot in our town.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: It looks like it's
- 25 a driveway retaining wall, not a poured concrete

- one. I'm sure it was engineered at some point
- 2 prior to it being put in.
- MS. MOLNAR: Frank, would you
- 4 explain to me what an inlet is?
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: An inlet,
- 6 basically, is similar to what you would see along
- 7 a street, however, it's generally smaller when
- 8 it's on a property. The inlet can be -- depending
- 9 on how much water it needs to collect -- it could
- 10 be a 2-by-2 inlet, a 3-by-3 inlet. Whatever the
- 11 engineers feel is appropriate for that area it
- 12 would have a grate, and it would actually have a
- structure underneath so the grading would allow
- 14 the water to go into a precast concrete structure
- 15 underneath, which would be piped out to Lawrence
- 16 Avenue. Versus a lawn drain, which is basically
- or generally, I should say, about 12-inch by
- 18 12-inch, usually polyethylene plastic-type drain
- 19 which is just connected to a pipe, and again, that
- 20 too would be piped out. I would leave it to the
- 21 engineers to decide whether an inlet or lawn drain
- is required and the size of it since it's really
- 23 not in our purview.
- 24 MS. MOLNAR: Thank you for the
- 25 explanation.

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CHAIRMAN FUSARO: When else do we've
1
 2
      here. Any other Board Members have any comments
 3
      about the application? Concerns? Questions?
 4
                   MS. HROBLAK: I actually would make
 5
      a condition, Frank, that once that inlet is
      removed that any associated piping be capped and
 7
      not utilized. Because if it's piped out to
 8
      Lawrence Avenue, it's just adding to Lawrence
 9
      Avenue. I don't think it's a proper solution when
10
      it comes to the swale over there. If they need to
      address stormwater, I mean, there's far more
11
12
      stormwater coming off their roof and they had
13
      offered to put in a small amount of detention.
                                                       Ιf
14
      they were to pick up some of the roof runoff it
15
      would probably improve conditions far greater than
16
      trying to squeeze a swale between those two
17
      retaining walls. Extend that swale; I should say.
18
                   CHAIRMAN FUSARO: From listening to
19
      the testimony, I don't believe that Mr. Watson was
20
      able to tell us where the roof drains or
21
      downspouts are currently drained. They may be
22
      drained underground into that pipe that does go
23
      out to Lawrence. I don't think we know that.
24
                   MS. HROBLAK: I thought we heard
25
      testimony. Someone said it went out to Lawrence.
```

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah. The
- 2 applicants had said it went out to Lawrence.
- MR. DIPIETRO: I'm not one-hundred
- 4 percent sure, but I think it does.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We don't know
- 6 what's connected to it, Allyson. Whether it's
- 7 just the inlet or whether the downspouts are also
- 8 connected to it. I think we'll just leave that to
- 9 engineers and put a condition in there that the
- drainage be confirmed with the applicant's
- 11 engineers and our engineering department, and I
- think that would suffice. The only other
- 13 condition the Board might want to consider is that
- 14 the arborvitaes along the property be maintained.
- 15 And I just happened to -- I was about to say that
- 16 I don't have any other comments -- and looking at
- 17 the photograph in our package; if the Board can
- 18 kindly take a look at their package. The first
- 19 page, the photograph on the first page, the lower
- 20 portion of it where there is an emergency
- 21 generator and a red brick sidewalk leading to the
- 22 driveway area has an open 4-feet high fence. It
- looks like there is an arched type to it, an
- 24 arbor. I think we may want to reopen a portion of
- 25 the meeting to either ask the applicants and/or

- 1 the engineer if that's going to be converted to a
- 2 6-foot high fence, which I believe is required.
- 3 Actually, hold on. Let me see. I take that back.
- 4 It looks like they're going to put a 6-foot high
- 5 fence across that area so that would not come into
- 6 play. I answered my own question.
- 7 Anyone else have any other comments
- 8 questions, concerns? I see none. Do I have a
- 9 motion? Anyone?
- MS. MOLNAR: I'll move it be
- 11 accepted with the condition that the drainage be
- 12 confirmed with the applicant's engineer and our
- engineering department, and the condition that the
- 14 arborvitaes be maintained.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: A motion was made
- by Ms. Molnar. Do we have a second?
- MS. HROBLAK: Did you want to add a
- 18 condition to that with the reduction of the
- 19 200-square feet?
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes, the patio.
- MS. HROBLAK: On the east side of
- the pool.
- MS. MOLNAR: With a condition that
- the patio be 3-feet along the wall there.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes. The patio

- 1 along the rear of the pool shall be no wider than
- 2 3-feet.
- MS. HROBLAK: I second.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Second by
- 5 Ms. Hroblak. Mr. Sammet, please call the roll.
- 6 MR. SAMMET: Chair Fusaro.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 8 MR. SAMMET: Ms. Hroblak.
- 9 MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Reisen.
- MR. REISEN: Yes.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: The application is
- 23 approved. Good luck. Thank you and enjoy the
- 24 rest of your evening.
- MR. HEHL: Great, thank you. It's

- 1 great to see everyone and see you all soon.
- MS. FERRARO: Thank you.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: You're welcome.
- 4 Seeing that it's 10:08, we're going to take a
- 5 quick break, a 10-minute break. If we can keep it
- down between 5 and 10 minutes, that would be
- 7 great. And when we return, we'll address the rest
- 8 of the applications on the agenda. We'll try to
- 9 get through as many as we can. So please everyone
- 10 turn off your video and/or your mics during the
- 11 break. Thank you.
- 12 (Break taken.)
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: As I had mentioned
- 14 earlier, we had a lengthy agenda this evening, it
- 15 looks like at this point in time, we're going to
- 16 carry Ms. Stankiewicz, 920 Cranford Avenue;
- 17 Mr. Bartolucci, 4 Tamaques Way; and Mr. Laczynski,
- 18 857 Highland Avenue to our April meeting. I
- 19 believe the April meeting is the 11th if I'm not
- 20 mistaken, Mr. Sammet?
- MR. SAMMET: That's correct because
- the Planning Board is the 4th. Mr. Chair, it
- looks like Mr. Laczynski would like to say
- 24 something. I had to shut of the chat. The chat
- 25 function shouldn't have been enabled.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Sure. The other
- 2 applicants that I mentioned, will be carried to
- 3 the April 11th meeting without further notice. I
- 4 apologize.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Chair, we should,
- if it wasn't stated already, that the meeting will
- 7 be in-person in Town Hall at 425 East Broad Street
- 8 in the Council Chambers starting at 7:30.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 10 Mr. Sammet. I did mention that at the beginning
- 11 of the meeting.
- MR. SAMMET: You did.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: For those
- 14 applicants who were not present at the beginning
- of the meeting, this will be our last Zoom
- 16 meeting, and the following meetings will be held
- 17 at Town Hall starting at 7:30 on April the 11th.
- 18 Again, my apologies. We'll do the best we can to
- 19 get through the next two applications this
- 20 evening. And Mr. Sammet, you said that --
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Laczynski has
- raised his hand. I know he had reached through
- the chat, which shouldn't have been enabled, so I
- 24 had to shut it off.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. No problem.

- 1 Do you want to let him in? Go ahead.
- MR. SAMMET: Sure. Mr. Laczynski,
- 3 we should be able to hear you now.
- 4 MR. LACZYNSKI: Hi there. Thank you
- 5 so much for listening to me. I understand it's a
- 6 long night and I appreciate you guys. I just have
- 7 a trip -- I'm wondering, for next month's meeting,
- 8 if my architect is in-person, is there
- 9 accommodation where my wife and I can come in via
- 10 remote somehow and still provide our testimony so
- 11 we can keep it on the schedule? Zoom or whatever.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I don't believe we
- have those capabilities just yet. I know the town
- is working on that. But we do not as of right
- 15 now. Sorry.
- 16 MR. LACZYNSKI: You don't have a
- 17 laptop in front of you guys or something like
- 18 that? We couldn't get any accommodation?
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We don't have --
- the meetings are either Zoom or in-person, not any
- 21 hybrid thereof because if we did that, then --
- 22 First of all, I don't think council chamber is set
- 23 up for that, Number 1. Number 2, we would have to
- have a laptop there that the entire Board would
- 25 have to look at one particular laptop and we're

- 1 all sitting on a big dais.
- MR. LACZYNSKI: I understand.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I know there are
- 4 plans in the future for that type of technology to
- 5 be enabled. It's just not been done as of yet. I
- 6 apologize.
- 7 MR. LACZYNSKI: That's during the
- 8 Westfield spring break. So you know it's kind of
- 9 a family vacation time. And you know it would be
- 10 nice to maybe just continue with Zoom meetings
- 11 next month or something for all the people that
- 12 are probably postponed here.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Unfortunately, we
- can't do that because the notices have already
- 15 been sent out.
- 16 MR. LACZYNSKI: Got it.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We can't do that,
- 18 I apologize. Let the board secretary know whether
- 19 you will or will not be attending. It's really
- 20 not a problem. I fully understand.
- MR. LACZYNSKI: I'll be there. I
- have to cancel my vacation, but I'll do it.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: That's your
- 24 prerogative, but if decide to go on vacation,
- 25 you'll certainly be put on our May agenda.

- 1 MR. LACZYNSKI: I'll plan to be
- 2 available. Thank you so much for your
- 3 consideration.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Let's continue.
- 5 The next application is 800 Hillside Avenue,
- 6 Christopher and Natalie Licini. Applicant is
- 7 seeking approval to construct a new family
- 8 room/photography studio with bathroom and
- 9 staircase to new basement area as well a new
- 10 covered terrace off the existing living room with
- 11 a walkout balcony from the second-floor master
- 12 bedroom contrary to the following sections of the
- 13 Westfield Land Use Ordinance: Section 12.04F
- where building coverage permitted is 15% or
- 4,000-square feet, and proposed is 17.3% or
- 16 4,146-square feet.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: Good evening,
- 18 Mr. Blasi. Is your client here with you?
- MR. BLASI: Yes, they are.
- 20 MR. SAMMET: Okay. I'm looking for
- 21 their name in the list of attendees. I see. Here
- 22 we go. They have a number code today.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: 786 -- there we go
- 24 -- 786333. Got it. Mr. Blasi, I know you've
- 25 appeared before the Board this year. So unless

- 1 the Board has any questions, comments, or
- 2 concerns, we'll continue to recognize you as an
- 3 expert in the field of architecture. Please
- 4 proceed.
- 5 MR. BLASI: So I'd like to start
- 6 with a little context to the site first. So I'm
- 7 going to go to the aerial view that's in your
- 8 packets that you've received in the variance
- 9 hearing package. And that, basically, this image,
- 10 the aerial view, shows Mountain Avenue and shows
- 11 Mountain View Circle, and then this road back here
- is a private driveway which is Priscilla Lane.
- 13 What I'm looking to show everyone is the size of
- 14 the property where the house sits. Inside, this
- 15 right here is paving. This is the existing house
- 16 right in here, 1929/30 house sitting on this
- 17 corner that has side front yard and this area is
- 18 predominantly open. I'm going to show the
- 19 addition is being proposed in this area right here
- where I'm moving.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Blasi, excuse
- one second. I did forget to swear you in. I
- 23 apologize. If you could please raise your right
- 24 hand.
- 25 GREGORY BLASI, having been duly

- 1 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you.
- 3 MR. BLASI: This is the area where
- 4 the addition will be proposed. I'll stop sharing
- 5 that and go to the existing front yard. The
- 6 existing front facade of the house; to give you
- 7 some context as to what the existing house looks
- 8 like. Existing 1930s Tudor. It has a wood-shake
- 9 roof and it has board timber and plastic. A brick
- 10 entry. It still has that classic look of the
- original house in scale and proportion. This here
- is the existing rear of the building. So the
- addition is being added to the house right on the
- 14 left side, the left-right side.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We don't see the
- 16 photograph, Mr. Blasi.
- MR. BLASI: I'm sorry?
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Your screen is not
- 19 being shared if that's what you're trying to do.
- 20 We have the photographs in our packet.
- MR. BLASI: I'm trying to get them
- so everyone can see them. Why won't this share?
- 23 My apologies. I cannot find it, so I'm going to
- 24 move on.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We have the

- 1 photographs in front of us.
- MR. BLASI: Okay. So you can see
- 3 with the photographs in front of you the rear yard
- 4 that no addition has been added to it. And it
- 5 has, it's pretty flat along the rear side. The
- 6 addition is going to be proposed on the left side
- 7 of the year. And on the right side, there will be
- 8 the covered porch. So what I wanted to
- 9 demonstrate with that photograph is that the
- 10 addition will show some relief from the flat
- 11 facade of the existing where these homes in the
- 12 30s had beautiful crenulation and movement on the
- front facades, but plainer rear facades.
- I will now share the site plan.
- 15 Looking at the site plan; Hillside Avenue,
- 16 Mountain View. This is the existing house. This
- 17 area right here is the proposed covered porch and
- 18 this area right here is the proposed addition,
- 19 which is basically a family room, studio, powder
- 20 room. I want to look at the zoning chart to
- 21 demonstrate that no setbacks -- there's no relief
- for setbacks. There's no relief for impervious
- coverage which is at 20%, proposed allowable 30%.
- 24 No relief for floor area ratio at 23% to 25%. The
- 25 variance is building coverage, which you've

- 1 already stated allowable 15 which is proposed at
- 2 17.23. The addition is again located on the left
- 3 side of the rear which is against, adjacent to
- 4 this rear lane. This lane provides access to the
- 5 rear to the houses that are on Priscilla Lane and
- facing the adjacent street rear yard. So the
- 7 views of this addition are seen from the rear yard
- 8 of these adjacent properties, not side or front
- 9 yard. I'd like to go to the first floor. You can
- 10 see on the first floor the existing house has an
- 11 entry, an existing formal living room, and then
- there's a kitchen, office, dining room, sunroom,
- existing garage. So what's being proposed is a
- 14 powder room, a storage area adjacent to the
- 15 garage, and a new family room and studio with
- 16 windows, fireplace, and furniture. And also being
- 17 proposed is this new covered porch. All open
- 18 covered porch area.
- As for the second floor, the second
- 20 floor, the addition is a one-and-a-half story. So
- 21 this is showing the roof below. This is showing
- the balcony of the proposed covered porch, and an
- area, an existing bathroom that is being altered.
- 24 But the addition is here. This is the roof to the
- 25 addition and the balcony. As for the next sheet,

- 1 which is SD-04 Elevations in your packet. I'll
- 2 start with (1) Rear Elevation. This is showing
- 3 the rear of the addition. At the end
- 4 one-and-a-half stories of windows, a stucco facade
- 5 to match the existing materials of the building.
- 6 This detail that you see is the side of this door,
- 7 this door and transoms that are facing the rear
- 8 yard. Towards the right on the other side is the
- 9 new covered porch. This wood guardrail will match
- 10 the existing wood details on the house and some of
- 11 the gable ends. A mixture of wavy-wood detail,
- 12 Tudoresque detail with stucco, Tudor posts down
- 13 below and creating two new French doors to go into
- 14 the existing living room, and these are balcony
- doors that are coming out from the master bedroom.
- 16 From the side, or actually from the
- 17 Mountain View circle view this is the side of this
- 18 pushed out one-and-a-half-story dormer. This is
- 19 the facade facing you which has windows into the
- family room and door and transoms above that let
- in the natural light. Light for art, light for
- 22 photography, light for the family. It serves both
- 23 purposes of bringing in natural light but matching
- the Tudoresque style and window detail and facade
- 25 ornamentation. This is the private driveway side

- which will have -- we're proposing a new garage
- door and new windows that are transoms with insets
- 3 and stucco with bluestone sills to imply taller
- 4 windows but will be letting in natural light
- 5 through the transoms above, a decorative fireplace
- 6 with fireplace caps that match the existing
- 7 fireplace caps of the existing house, and then the
- 8 end dormer, and bay window, I should say bay
- 9 window.
- These are the facades and plans.
- 11 Again, I'd like to make one comment. The comments
- 12 that I'd like to talk about is first thanking Don
- for putting the report together, the detailed
- 14 report. I'm going to discuss C-2, flexible
- 15 benefits, and negatives for a C-2 Variance. The
- 16 items that I have is while allowing this beautiful
- 17 home to remain, the family may gain typical living
- 18 spaces that most homes in the neighborhood have.
- 19 This would entail a powder room, storage adjacent
- 20 to the garage. This will also allow for a family
- 21 room which the house does not currently have. The
- 22 property is not being demoed to provide two lots.
- 23 It's allowing this existing 1930s home to remain.
- 24 Two new homes would irrevocably change the density
- 25 of this site. As stated in the report, if two

- 1 homes were built, a total of 4,811-square feet
- 2 would be allowable, and what is being proposed
- 3 right now is 4,146-feet. I'd also like to say
- 4 that the addition, the house is two-and-a-half
- 5 stories, the addition that is being proposed is
- 6 one-and-a-half stories. The existing
- 7 nonconforming side yard setback is not being
- 8 increased. The proposed addition is well within
- 9 setbacks. The addition is being located, again,
- on a private driveway not affecting the adjacent
- 11 properties only within a rear yard, which would
- 12 have Priscilla Lane between the houses anyway as
- 13 additional buffer after the rear yard. The
- 14 existing lot has an open yard as you've seen
- 15 through the aerial view. And by placing the
- 16 addition on this side of the private lane, this
- area from Mountain View will still pretty much
- 18 remain open. I'm not changing the character of
- 19 the yard as much as an addition either in the
- center or the right side of the house would be.
- 21 So other comments; the setbacks we've already
- 22 discussed. There're no variances for setbacks,
- lot coverage or FAR. The existing living room I'd
- like to say is 26-by-17. So this room is bigger,
- 25 but it's 3-feet longer which is purely a

- 1 requirement for technical use for photography.
- 2 Mrs. Licini will speak more about what she does.
- 3 But visiting the house, there's artwork,
- 4 photography, sculptures, there're easels. I've
- 5 heard through conversation educating of the
- 6 children, and it's a beautiful environment inside
- 7 the house that this space will use, as well as her
- 8 family room, but I'll let her speak to that. The
- 9 addition is 537-square feet over, 309 of that
- square feet is the covered porch which is open
- 11 space. I'd just like to remark that the 309 and
- the 537 is the open covered porch leaving
- 13 228-square feet of basically addition.
- So I will open up to any questions
- 15 that you might have for me.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 17 Mr. Blasi. A couple of quick questions that I
- 18 have and then we'll ask the Board if they have any
- 19 questions for you. First, an obvious question.
- 20 Some of the paperwork that we have, some of the
- 21 plans show a pool. I'm assuming that there is no
- 22 pool in the backyard.
- MR. BLASI: Correct. If we go to
- 24 the site plan, the site plan was changed and the
- 25 revision bubble was placed on the site plan to

- 1 clearly indicate there is no pool being proposed.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Great. Thank you.
- 3 The other question I had -- and I'm not sure if
- 4 you can answer this or perhaps the applicants
- 5 might shed a little light. This particular
- 6 project, it appears from the site plan is on two
- 7 separate lots, Lot 15 and Lot 16; is that correct?
- 8 MR. BLASI: I'm looking at the
- 9 survey. I'm looking at the block and lots. But
- 10 I'm going to turn that question over to the
- 11 clients.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Because I have
- some -- and when we get to them I'll ask them that
- 14 question. Because there's part of -- it looks
- 15 like some sort of a part of Lot 15 may have been
- 16 an easement or a piece that was added. The reason
- 17 I bring it up and my concern is in the future if
- 18 these two lots, which they are two conforming lots
- if they were to be developed individually how that
- 20 would affect this particular project. So that's
- 21 why I brought it up. We'll wait to hear from the
- 22 applicants about that. The overage, the way I see
- 23 it, the 15% versus 17.23 is about 15% over. As
- you mentioned, a portion of that is the open
- covered porch, which, if the application were to

- 1 be approved, I would certainly suggest that a
- 2 condition be placed on that that it remains open
- 3 on -- I guess, normally, we say three sides, but
- 4 since two of them abut the house, it would be two
- 5 sides. I don't have any other questions at this
- 6 time for Mr. Blasi. Do any Board Members have any
- 7 questions?
- 8 MS. MOLNAR: Yes, I have a question.
- 9 What does the addition do to the runoff and
- 10 drainage on the property?
- 11 MR. BLASI: I'm going to -- first of
- 12 all, may I just ask the Board; are you currently
- 13 looking at the site plan?
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 15 MR. BLASI: Okay. Thank you. I'm
- 16 not an engineer. Typically, the engineering would
- have to be done to confirm that any additional
- 18 rainwater that would be added would be either
- retained or able to runoff. My one comment I
- 20 would say from an architect's point of view; if
- look at the maximum improvements of the coverage,
- the lot coverage is well under the allowable lot
- 23 coverage. Again, I would leave that to
- 24 engineering through Don and town engineering along
- 25 with the final design for water retention.

- 1 MS. MOLNAR: Thank you.
- CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Blasi, one
- 3 other quick question. On the site plan, there's
- 4 that area just to the left of the addition and to
- 5 the left of the existing concrete patio there, it
- 6 says "macadam." Could you elaborate on that a
- 7 little bit? Right there. Yes, correct.
- MR. BLASI: That is their existing
- 9 driveway. It's basically their apron from
- 10 Pricilla Lane into their garage. That is existing
- 11 asphalt, macadam.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Any
- other Board Members have any questions for
- 14 Mr. Blasi at this time? Seeing none, why don't
- 15 you the applicants in and we'll hear some
- 16 testimony from them, and then we'll open it up to
- 17 some additional questions. Mr. and Mrs. Licini.
- MS. LICINI: Hi. How are you?
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Hi. How are you?
- 20 Can you please state your name and address for the
- 21 record?
- MS. LICINI: Natalie and
- 23 Christopher Licini, 800 Hillside Avenue,
- Westfield, New Jersey 07090.
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Please raise your

- 1 right hand, as you're doing already. You've been
- 2 listening tonight I see. Thank you.
- 3 CHRISTOPHER and NATALIE LICINI,
- 4 having been duly sworn, were examined and
- 5 testified as follows:
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you and
- 7 please proceed.
- 8 MS. LICINI: My husband and I moved
- 9 here about four years ago from New York with our
- 10 three kids and we have really loved living here
- 11 even through Covid. We love our neighborhood and
- we love our home. We don't have a family room, so
- we were hoping that you might consider allowing
- 14 this addition to the home that we really love. We
- don't want to move. But with spending so much
- 16 time at home with our three young kids, we need a
- 17 little more space to put them in different rooms.
- And I, myself, I'm an artist. I paint, I'm an oil
- 19 painter and I'm a photographer. So being able to
- 20 do some things at home would really be great; with
- 21 limited childcare and everything that we're kind
- of transitioning through. When we were creating
- 23 the family room space, we did design it with a lot
- of natural light for paint and for photography.
- 25 So the interior wall, windows, and doors sort of

- faces north which really fits our needs. And we
- 2 would be grateful if you would consider our
- 3 project.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. The
- 5 question I had asked previously that Mr. Blasi had
- 6 said that you could possibly elaborate on; could
- 7 you explain to us a little about the lot
- 8 configuration. Lot 14 is obviously next to your
- 9 property, and then it would appear that there's a
- 10 part of Lot 15 according to the site plan, or two
- parts of Lot 15 and then Lot 16. So I'm assuming
- that the property at some point has already been
- 13 subdivided or there's a subdivision that was
- 14 already approved for the property. Can you
- 15 elaborate on that a little bit?
- MR. LICINI: Hi. This is
- 17 Mr. Licini, Chris. That's not something that we
- 18 asked for, so that was here before we were the
- 19 owners if it was asked for a subdivision. And our
- 20 project here, you know, we don't want to subdivide
- 21 the property. We don't want to sell it and make
- two different homes that don't match the
- 23 neighborhood. We just want to increase the size
- 24 and match the look and feel. Like we like that
- 25 this is a 1929 Tudor. We're the people that --

- 1 actually, we were the target audience for this.
- 2 And, yes, I know we will be going over the second
- 3 lot and it's because we don't mind. We don't have
- 4 intentions of splitting the lot and selling it and
- 5 having two builders come in and build two houses.
- 6 We want our kids to grow up here.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Your
- 8 testimony is that you have absolutely, at this
- 9 time, no intention of building another home on the
- 10 property at some point or selling it.
- 11 MR. LICINI: That's one-hundred
- 12 percent our intention.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 14 As far as Ms. Molnar asked a question regarding
- 15 the runoff and what impact the addition would have
- 16 with respect to stormwater. Normally, that's
- something one of the engineers would provide some
- information on for us. But just a general
- 19 question; have you had any issues with flooding?
- I believe your existing home does have a basement.
- 21 Have there been any issues with any infiltration
- of water or any of the neighbors having runoff
- from their property to your, your property to
- theirs, etcetera?
- 25 MS. LICINI: To the best of my

- 1 knowledge, my neighbors have not had any issues
- from our home. And obviously living here four
- 3 years, a storm like the end of August/early
- 4 September was a test to see if we'd have any water
- 5 in the basement and thankfully, it was next to
- 6 nothing. I don't even think there was even an
- 7 inch. And, of course, we were really worried with
- 8 an old home like ours. So to the best of our
- 9 knowledge, we've not had any issues. We hope we
- 10 never do. It's relatively flat land.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. I have
- 12 no further questions for the applicants. Any
- Board Members have any questions for the
- 14 applicants? Anyone? Seeing none, at this time,
- 15 why don't we open it up to public commentary. If
- 16 anyone in the audience has any questions for
- either Mr. Blasi and/or the applicants, please
- 18 virtually raise your hand and Mr. Sammet will
- 19 allow you into the meeting.
- MR. SAMMET: I'm not seeing any
- 21 hands raised, Mr. Chairman.
- 22 Q. Thank you, Mr. Sammet. Seeing none,
- 23 we'll close that portion of the meeting. Are
- there any other presentations or closing comments
- 25 you'd like to make Mr. Blasi and/or the Licinis?

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1 MS. LICINI: I'd just like to thank
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- 2 everyone for your time and consideration, and I'm
- 3 here if you have any additional questions.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. We'll
- 5 close that portion of the meeting and open it up
- 6 to Board commentary -- Board discussion, I should
- 7 say. I'm sorry. As I mentioned earlier, if the
- 8 application were to be approved my suggestion
- 9 would be that we put our standard comment, our
- 10 standard condition in there with respect to that
- 11 porch remaining open on two sides. As you've
- 12 heard from the applicants, they certainly have no
- intention at this time of subdividing the lot
- 14 further. The lot has already been subdivided,
- 15 however, constructing any new homes -- or new home
- 16 I should say -- on the Lot 15 portion of the
- 17 current property. The home is, as Mr. Blasi
- 18 described, an older home, a Tudor. I believe the
- 19 addition that Mr. Blasi is proposing certainly
- 20 fits in architecturally. It will be minimally
- 21 viewed from Mountain View circle. I am familiar
- 22 with Priscilla Lane; it is a private drive.
- 23 There's virtually no through traffic there. As
- far as it being seen by too many people or having
- 25 an issue with it, I don't think that's going to

- 1 come into play.
- 2 As far as stormwater goes, I know
- 3 several Board Members on this Board in general
- 4 certainly is concerned with additional coverage.
- 5 It appears that pretty much every project that
- 6 comes before us does add coverage. And even
- 7 though it may be minimal, those minimums add up to
- 8 quite a bit when you consider that we approve or
- 9 we review 120-some odd applications a year.
- 10 Having been said, I think the addition certainly
- 11 fits in with the neighborhood. It is a large
- 12 piece of property. I don't think it's being
- overbuilt. And from a massing standpoint, I think
- 14 it would kind of fit in. As I said, it is 15%
- over on the coverage. I don't know what -- off
- 16 the top of my head, it doesn't appear that there's
- anything glaring that we could ask the applicants
- 18 or Mr. Blasi to look at reducing other than
- 19 possibly reducing that covered porch area since it
- 20 would appear from what we've heard that the main
- 21 reason for the application is to create this
- family room slash photography studio, and I guess
- the covered porch is just basically another aspect
- that may or may not be as important as the family
- 25 room.

- 1 Anyone from the Board? I'd like to
- 2 hear some comments about how everyone else feels.
- MS. HROBLAK: I have a question for
- 4 Don. Do we know what size these lots -- what was
- 5 the zone classification prior to these being
- 6 combined?
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Oh, gosh. I wouldn't
- 8 know. You'd probably be going back a few decades.
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I believe it's in
- 10 an RS-12 now.
- 11 MR. SAMMET: It's currently an
- 12 RS-12, yeah.
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: So there are two
- conforming a little over 12,000-square foot lots.
- 15 MR. SAMMET: Theoretically, you
- 16 could get two 12,000-square foot lots.
- 17 MR. MASCIALE: And it's 15% in an
- 18 RS-12; correct?
- MR. SAMMET: No. Well, the
- 20 permitted lot coverage goes by lot size, actually
- 21 not by zone district. So on a -- I think I put it
- in my report on a 12,000-square foot lot, you're
- 23 permitted about 20% coverage. But this lot, being
- over that, they're only permitted at 15% lot
- coverage.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Right 12,000 --
- 2 Don's report says, that's correct, 20% and it
- 3 would be 2,400-square on a 12,000-square foot lot.
- 4 Certainly, this is a 24,000-plus-square foot lot.
- 5 MS. HROBLAK: I guess that's what
- 6 I'm getting at. You're getting almost a free
- 7 entire lot of undeveloped area, and should remain
- 8 undeveloped should the property be sold in 50
- 9 years.
- 10 MR. SAMMET: That was kind of the
- 11 point I was making in my report. Hypothetically,
- if this was two separate lots in the RS-12 Zone,
- you'd be allowed a greater coverage.
- 14 MS. HROBLAK: We're minimizing it
- 15 this way; right?
- 16 MR. SAMMET: Exactly. You're
- 17 getting less coverage with this larger lot even
- 18 with the variance request.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yeah. I think that
- 20 works quite a bit in favor. Whether the runoff
- 21 becomes an issue, time will tell with the
- 22 neighbors. I mean Hillside slopes down toward
- 23 Mountain View Circle all the way down to New
- 24 Providence Road as I can attest to reaching about
- 40 miles an hour on my bicycle coming down

- 1 Hillside. You can fly down that road.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Good thing your
- 3 brakes work; right?
- 4 MS. HROBLAK: Yeah. That is how I
- 5 test them. I usually bail out at Cedar Grove.
- 6 It's pretty steep and people on either side of
- 7 them from either -- well, I'm not sure how it
- 8 impacts. Priscilla goes down as well I think if
- 9 you -- they're higher than the next neighbor on
- 10 Priscilla. You'll find out if you're pissing
- 11 everyone off. It's hard to tell, we don't have a
- 12 grading plan. But I'm sure they'll come talk to
- 13 you.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Any other Board
- 15 Members have any comments regarding the
- 16 application?
- 17 MR. MASCIALE: I think it's a great
- 18 design. I think it fits and we're way under with
- 19 the two lots. And it's not a two-story, it's a
- one-and-a-half. I think it's going to fit right
- into the neighborhood, and it's not overdeveloped
- 22 -- over massing as you said, Frank. To me, this
- fits in and we know Mr. Blasi and his
- 24 architectural designs always look great. And this
- is going to look really good.

- 1 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you, Chris.
- 2 Any other Board Members? No? Did I hear a yes?
- 3 No?
- 4 MR. GELINAS: Yeah. Sorry. I
- 5 wanted to ask one thing too. With respect to the
- 6 affidavit that was provided about the use of the
- 7 space for painting and photographing clients and
- 8 it says that they reviewed the ordinance Section
- 9 14.01 and will comply. Is that something that we
- 10 want to factor into our ultimate set of conditions
- 11 when we vote on this?
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Katie, is that
- something that we should reference in our
- 14 conditions?
- 15 MS. RAZIN: I'm not sure in what
- 16 regard you're --
- 17 MR. SAMMET: I think what it is
- 18 Katie is the applicant has testified that they're
- 19 an artist --
- MS. RAZIN: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: -- and the addition
- 22 will be used --
- 23 MS. RAZIN: You mean like for a home
- 24 office? In terms of like a home office versus
- like a hobby; is what you're saying?

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Right. Well, that it
- 2 will not be --
- 3 MS. RAZIN: Amount to like a home --
- 4 MR. SAMMET: Yeah. The photography
- 5 studio that will be part of the addition will not
- 6 violate the provisions of the town's Home
- 7 Occupation Ordinance.
- 8 MS. RAZIN: Yeah. I think that's
- 9 fair. Right.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: So include that as
- 11 a condition?
- MS. RAZIN: Sure. Yeah. Again, I
- think if they stipulated to it, especially feel
- 14 free to include that as an expressed condition if
- 15 you like, yes.
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Anyone
- 17 else? Seeing none, may I have a motion?
- MR. MASCIALE: I'll make a motion to
- 19 accept the application with the condition that the
- 20 covered porch area remains open on two sides.
- 21 Also, a condition of the, I think it was the 14.01
- reference that the studio will not be used for
- 23 commercial purposes.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Excellent. We
- 25 have a motion by Mr. Masciale. Do we have a

- 1 second?
- MR. REISEN: Second.
- MS. HROBLAK: Second.
- 4 MS. RAZIN: Who was that?
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I don't know if
- 6 that was Allyson.
- 7 MS. HROBLAK: I think it was Charles
- 8 and myself.
- 9 MR. SAMMET: Sam, you might be our
- 10 second. I think Sam is our second alternate. So
- 11 it should be --
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Allyson.
- MR. SAMMET: -- I think Allyson.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: That's fine.
- 15 Thank you. Please call the roll, Mr. Sammet.
- MR. SAMMET: Chair Fusaro.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Hroblak.
- MS. HROBLAK: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Masciale.
- MR. MASCIALE: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Molnar.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Ms. Pavon.
- MS. PAVON: Yes.

- 1 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Sontz.
- MR. SONTZ: Yes.
- MR. SAMMET: Mr. Gelinas.
- 4 MR. GELINAS: Yes.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: And Mr. Reisen.
- MR. REISEN: Yes.
- 7 MR. BLASI: Excuse me. Frank, could
- 8 I just ask one question?
- 9 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes, please.
- 10 MR. BLASI: Because the client is
- 11 asking for clarification. The affidavit that was
- 12 signed by them is that she could use the studio
- for home -- it says, "I am a painter and fine art
- 14 photographer. I do not have any employees. The
- 15 932-square foot extension will be shared and
- 16 enjoyed by my family, quasi-used for painting and
- 17 photographing clients. I have reviewed the
- ordinance Section 14.01. I will comply with the
- ordinance. The requested 932-square feet of the
- family room/photo studio is 16% and will be below
- the maximum 25% habitable floor area."
- The main comment is that she is
- going to have clients there, but she's going to
- 24 adhere to the ordinance Section 14.01. She just
- 25 wants to clarify that that's going to be within,

- 1 inside the memorialization.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes. That
- 3 shouldn't be a problem. I believe what we're
- 4 trying to express, and perhaps Katie our attorney,
- 5 Ms. Razin, may be able to word it better than we
- 6 can. But basically, we don't want it to be used
- 7 as a commercial photography studio.
- 8 MR. MASCIALE: We can reference
- 9 14.01 in the motion.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Whatever 14.01
- 11 says, then that's what --
- MS. RAZIN: If we reference it in
- terms of compliance with the ordinance rather than
- 14 --
- MR. SAMMET: Correct.
- 16 MS. RAZIN: -- then that would be
- 17 okay. Right.
- 18 MR. SAMMET: The Home Occupation
- 19 Ordinance by definition allows for you to work
- from home. It's just you will not violate the
- 21 provisions contained within Westfield's Home
- Occupation Ordinance, which is Article 14 of the
- 23 Land Use Ordinance.
- MR. BLASI: Don, is there any way
- 25 that you can let the Licinis back in?

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1
                   CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Absolutely.
 2
                   MR. SAMMET:
                                Yeah.
                                       They're in now.
 3
                   MR. BLASI: I don't --
 4
 5
                   MS. RAZIN: If you want to share
 6
      your screen you might be able to see them.
      probably why you're not able to see them.
7
 8
                   MR. BLASI: So the question is --
 9
      Natalie, I'm going to repeat just to be clear.
10
      The 401(sic) that was signed -- the comment -- the
      affidavit that was signed, the Section 401.01 not
11
12
      having employees but being able to have clients
13
      there as a home office, that is what you'll be
14
      allowed to do.
15
                   MS. LICINI: Yeah. I just wanted to
16
      clarify that since I'm a painter, sometimes I
17
      paint children. I just want to make sure I'm
18
      permitted. I just don't want to -- like you said
19
      no commercial use. So for me, if a client hires
20
      me to paint their child or photograph their child
21
      I just want to make sure that I'm clear.
22
                   CHAIRMAN FUSARO: If that's what the
23
      Home Office Ordinance says then we're certainly --
24
      we didn't write the ordinance. Whatever the
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25

ordinance says.

- 1 MS. LICINI: Because I thought we
- 2 were fine.
- 3 MR. SAMMET: Yeah. You'll be fine.
- 4 MS. RAZIN: We're going to put it in
- 5 compliance with the ordinance and we're not going
- 6 to add in extra language.
- 7 MS. LICINI: Other language. Thank
- 8 you.
- 9 MR. LICINI: Just making sure.
- MR. BLASI: Thank you, guys. I
- 11 apologize.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- We're good, Don?
- MR. SAMMET: Yes, sir.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 16 Your project is approved. Good luck.
- 17 MR. LICINI: Thank you all. Thank
- 18 you very much.
- MS. LICINI: Thank you very much.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: You're welcome.
- 21 Thank you. Enjoy.
- MR. MASCIALE: Did we take a vote?
- CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I thought we did,
- 24 Mr. Sammet?
- MR. REISEN: I think I interrupted

- 1 it.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: All right.
- 3 Mr. Sammet, please call the role.
- 4 MR. SAMMET: No, it was done.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I thought it was
- 6 done.
- 7 MR. SAMMET: Yeah. It was approved
- 8 unanimously.
- 9 MR. MASCIALE: It was. All these
- 10 questions.
- MR. BLASI: Thank you very much.
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Have a
- good evening. It's 11:00, do we want to get
- 14 started with this? I don't know if we'll get
- 15 through it, but let's at least give it a quick
- start and we'll go as far as we can.
- 17 The next application is
- 18 Michael King, 437 Hillside Avenue. Applicant is
- 19 seeking approval to construct a two-story addition
- on the side of the house to add a two-car garage
- 21 and a connecting breezeway. The proposed addition
- 22 will have a finished second floor. The existing
- 23 attached two-car garage will be renovated to be
- 24 living space. There will be a third-floor
- 25 addition to add a guest bedroom suite, storage,

- 1 and home spa contrary to the following sections of
- the Westfield Land Use Ordinance: Section 11.04E6
- 3 where minimum side yard setback permitted is
- 4 15-feet and proposed is 13-feet-8-inches; Section
- 5 11.04E12 where maximum eave height permitted is
- 6 22-feet and proposed is 26-foot-2-inches; Section
- 7 12.04G1 where maximum all improvements coverage
- 8 permitted is 20% and proposed is 41.48%; Section
- 9 11.04E13 where maximum zoning side wall length
- 10 permitted is 25-feet and proposed is 26-feet;
- 11 Section 11.04E8 where number of stories permitted
- is 2-and-a-half and proposed is 3.
- I know we have Mr. King. I see
- 14 Mr. Bailey. I believe Mr. Bailey you've appeared
- before us this year; is that correct.
- 16 MR. BAILEY: That's correct.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Can you please
- 18 state your name and address for the record?
- MR. BAILEY: Dave Bailey, architect.
- 20 The office address is 225 Lenox Avenue, Westfield.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Please
- 22 raise your right hand.
- DAVID BAILEY, having been duly
- 24 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 25 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: We will continue

- 1 to recognize you as an expert in the field of
- 2 architecture. Please proceed.
- MR. BAILEY: I guess the Kings will
- 4 testify later about why they need the addition,
- 5 but I'll start with the design. I can start
- first. Let me share my screen. Does the Board
- 7 see the drawing?
- 8 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes.
- 9 MR. BAILEY: Starting with the
- 10 existing plans. These are the existing floor
- 11 plans on EX-2. On the existing first floor here
- 12 we have an existing attached two-car garage. We
- have an existing kitchen here; relatively small
- 14 kitchen. They have a laundry closet in the
- 15 kitchen. They have this tiny mudroom and a door
- 16 to the garage. We have a typical center hall
- house with a living room and dining room, family
- 18 room in the back. And then they have on the
- 19 second floor the master suite here, some kids'
- 20 rooms. And we have just a storage attic with a
- 21 relatively low-pitched roof. So what we're
- 22 proposing to do in the proposed design is to take
- over the existing garage as living space, open up
- the kitchen more, and we're going to propose an
- 25 attached two-car garage addition.

- 1 Let me show the elevations existing.
- 2 These are the existing elevations. It's a typical
- 3 1960s two-story colonial. Front porch across
- 4 here. That's the existing right elevation.
- 5 That's the existing north side and existing south
- 6 side with the existing attached two-car garage
- 7 here, and the existing rear of the house here.
- 8 And then I'll show some photos. These are the
- 9 existing photographs on PH-1. This is on the
- 10 upper left here the existing front elevation.
- 11 It's a very large property, almost an acre. A
- 12 nice circle drive existing here. Again, the front
- 13 porch. The two-story 1960s colonial house that
- exists. This is the existing rear and this very
- 15 deep large backyard here. This is the side facing
- 16 towards Mountainside, the north side where the
- 17 addition is not being built. Over here is where
- the addition will be built. Over on the
- 19 right-hand corner, this is the existing south side
- of the existing house and existing two-car garage
- 21 here and existing mudroom entry.
- So on the proposed drawings, we're
- proposing on the first floor here, this is A-5
- 24 proposed first-floor plan. We're proposing where
- 25 the existing two-car garage was to turn into

- 1 living space. So we're taking out the existing
- 2 laundry room here, the mudroom, opening up the
- 3 kitchen to be larger and have a nice little area
- 4 to put a breakfast table, door out to the
- 5 backyard. And then we're proposing a master
- 6 mudroom here and a real laundry room here, and
- 7 then a full bath and a library here with a privacy
- 8 door here, which also could be used for guests,
- 9 but it's proposed as a library. So all the
- 10 existing garage space will become living space.
- 11 We're proposing this two-story addition on the
- 12 left here for the two-car garage. So this is the
- two-car garage with two 9-foot doors. There's an
- open breezeway that's 8-foot wide that connects
- 15 the garage to the house. There's a stair in the
- 16 back here that goes up to the finished second
- 17 floor. So we proposed the two-car garage that
- 18 would be just large enough to comfortably fit two
- 19 cars. It would be 21-foot-8-inches wide clear and
- 20 21-foot-3-inches clear deep. So, again, it will
- 21 comfortably fit two cars, 9-foot doors will fit
- two cars.
- Going up to the proposed second
- 24 floor. The second floor of the proposed garage
- 25 addition will be like a half story. Dormers,

- 1 sloping roof, sloping ceilings, open stair up to
- 2 the finished second floor. This shows the
- 3 required side yard setback. So one of the
- 4 variances is for 16-inches into a required 15-foot
- 5 side yard setback. So on the second floor, you're
- 6 running through part of sloping ceilings and attic
- 7 spaces. And on the first floor, it's cutting
- 8 along the edge of the proposed two-car garage,
- 9 we're 16 inches into the setback there. This is
- an open breezeway, which if you look at the site
- 11 plan, this is open and not enclosed. Again, with
- this large property, it's almost an acre, by
- having this an open breezeway, you can take a
- 14 shortcut through here to get from the front yard
- 15 to the backyard, and to get into the house from
- 16 the backyard, front yard. If this were enclosed,
- 17 you'd have to walk all the way around the garage
- 18 to get to the backyard. It's not as convenient.
- 19 So to have this look decent as an open breezeway
- on the proposed elevations, the reason it's 8-foot
- 21 wide.
- So again, this is the 8-foot wide
- open breezeway. So 8-foot is a good proportion to
- have this as open space that, again, you can walk
- 25 through as a shortcut. There's a roof here, so

- 1 it's attached, and this is an attached addition.
- 2 But if this were less than 8-foot and open, it
- 3 would seem like an alley. And the reason we
- 4 proposed it's open again is to have this nice
- 5 shortcut. An open breezeway cutting through
- 6 which, you know, given this style of house -- the
- 7 center hall colonial with the attached carriage
- 8 house look -- an open breezeway goes with the
- 9 style house and there're other open breezeways in
- 10 this neighborhood. So the proposed two-story
- 11 addition, again, the second floor is treated more
- 12 like a half story with a shed dormer front.
- 13 You've got metal roofs, so it's like a carriage
- 14 house. Again, it's only 16-inches into the
- 15 required 15-foot side yard setback and the side
- 16 elevation. So this is the side of that garage
- 17 addition. So, again, it's got these two shed
- dormers front and back, a gable roof with a nice
- 19 pitch that goes to the style house. We've got
- 20 some windows facing the neighbor. The rear --
- 21 this is the rear of the attached two-car garage
- 22 addition. Again, it's got windows to the second
- 23 floor. This is an open breezeway, it's 8-foot
- 24 wide. So that is the testimony on the garage
- 25 part.

```
The third floor, if you remember,
1
 2
      from the existing photographs of the front of the
 3
      house, the 60s-type colonial with a relatively
      low-pitched roof. It didn't have a good scale or
 5
      style or curb appeal. Particularly in a
 6
      neighborhood like this with large homes.
                                                 So we're
 7
      proposing a 10-to-12 pitched roof on the existing
 8
      part of the house. Of these two wings, taking the
 9
      roof off building a steeper pitched roof. On the
10
      front, facing towards the street, we're proposing
      three 6-foot wide shed dormers with a metal roof.
11
12
      So you like a two-and-a-half-story center hall
13
      colonial look from the street. And on the next
14
      elevation, on the rear elevation, we've got the
15
      shed dormer across the back to get the headroom
16
      and living space on the third floor. This is --
17
      one of the variances required is the eave height.
      So this is more than the maximum 22-foot eave
18
19
      height. It's going to be about 26-foot-2-inches
20
      from the grade. So the way the code is written,
21
      you can't be more than 22-feet from the grade to
      the bottom of the soffit to the eave.
22
                                             We're
      26-foot-2, but this shed dormer across the back is
23
24
      the only dormer that needs that variance for eave
25
      height.
```

- 1 The ones in the front conform and
- 2 certainly, the ones on the second floor conform.
- 3 The back of this house faces into a very deep
- 4 large backyard. There're no neighbors behind you
- 5 that can even see the back of the house. So no
- 6 neighbor behind is really going to see any of
- 7 these additions because you've got almost an acre,
- 8 you've got a lot of screenage(sic), you've got
- 9 swimming pools, tennis court. Where you would see
- 10 additions from the street -- and again, this is
- 11 set way back from the street off of Hillside --
- 12 you see what looks more like a half-story look on
- 13 the front with just three shed dormers. The
- 14 bigger part, again, is on the back facing a very
- 15 large property almost an acre.
- 16 The side elevations. So the side of
- 17 that third floor -- this is the side of the shed
- 18 dormers facing the street, the wide ones, and this
- is that shed dormer across the back of the house
- 20 on the third floor. This is the north side of the
- 21 house. Again, this is the side view of the shed
- dormers facing the street. This is the big shed
- 23 dormer across the back. Going to the -- so this
- is the proposed second floor. So I went over the
- 25 proposed first floor. So on the second floor, the

- 1 only change to the existing second floor is
- 2 opening up a staircase to the new third floor.
- 3 There're no real changes to the existing rooms on
- 4 the existing second floor. That's that separate
- 5 room over the garage on the second floor.
- And then going up to the third
- 7 floor. A-7 is the proposed third floor. Again,
- 8 we have the three 6-foot wide shed dormers facing
- 9 towards the front towards the street. We've got
- 10 the shed dormer across the back here. And the
- 11 Kings I'm sure will testify they asked me to put a
- 12 Scotch Plains Avenue on the third floor with a
- 13 guest room, some storage room, some closet space.
- 14 You know, the spa with a sauna and a nice bath
- 15 with the jacuzzi. Raising the roof over this part
- of the existing house with just the unfinished
- 17 attic. So this will be the finished part here.
- Going to the site plan. On the site
- 19 plan; this is the existing site plan. So on SP-1,
- 20 going to 1 on SP-1, the existing site plan. So
- 21 currently, there's this circular drive and there's
- this big driveway, and then you've got to do the
- 23 K-turn into the side facing the two-car garage
- here. This is a proposed site plan. So we're
- 25 actually cutting away part of the existing

- 1 driveway at the proposed garage addition
- 2 breezeway. So we cut back on some of the paving
- 3 for the driveway and put in its place the proposed
- 4 addition. So we're actually decreasing slightly
- 5 the improvement coverage because we cut off this
- 6 area leaving here that's within that side yard
- 7 setback. So we've cut away some paving here and
- 8 then the proposed addition sits on existing
- 9 impervious improvement coverage. So we've
- 10 actually decreased the existing improvement
- 11 coverage 167-square feet less than existing
- improvement coverage. So the existing improvement
- 13 coverage is existing nonconforming. It's over the
- 14 maximum. The maximum allowed is 20%. Existing is
- 15 41.89, we're proposing 41.49. So again, we've
- 16 actually reduced the existing nonconformance of
- the improvement coverage by 167-square feet by
- 18 putting the addition over existing paving, having
- 19 the front-facing garage so you don't need as big a
- 20 driveway. They cut off that paving here on the
- 21 side and landscaping there.
- So again, we're only 16-inches into
- the 15-foot side yard setback. And again with the
- 8-foot open breezeway that's why the garage
- 25 crosses over that. And the front grass -- being

- 1 that all the neighbors have large properties,
- there's a lot of landscaping and buffering between
- 3 houses. So the next-door neighbor here on the
- 4 left where the proposed addition is going, they're
- 5 pretty far away up there higher on the hill.
- 6 There're a lot of trees and shrubs. You can see
- 7 this rear photo here looking towards where the
- 8 addition is going to be or that car is sitting,
- 9 that's where that proposed addition is going to
- 10 be, again, there's a lot of landscaping there, a
- 11 lot of buffering between homes. The rear yard is
- very far back on the site plan. So here is where
- the proposed additions are. Here's where that
- 14 proposed third-floor addition here, this blue
- 15 area. And you're very far away to the property
- 16 line, and the house behind them is further back
- 17 than that.
- To get a sense how this house will
- 19 still fit into the scale of the neighbors, I had
- 20 worked on the house to the right adjacent here.
- 21 So along here, this house here, I included in here
- one of the elevations. So this is 443 Hillside
- Avenue. So I designed this, this 8,000-square
- foot house. It's three stories, it's almost
- 25 35-feet high. It's got a walk-out basement. And

- 1 here for scale, the proposed King house with the
- 2 third floor and attached garage and breezeway. So
- 3 you can see, the next adjacent neighbor has a
- 4 larger house bulk-wise than the Kings. And
- Jim Watson might testify about other neighbors in
- the neighborhood, but we're definitely by more in
- 7 keeping with the scale of the neighbors by having
- 8 a descent pitched roof proposed and having the
- 9 dormers. That's the overall roof plan. Shed
- dormer across the back, the smaller shed dormers
- 11 across the front, and the carriage house addition
- 12 there.
- So some of the other variances --
- 14 moving back to the rest of the variances. There's
- the sidewall massing variance. We're proposing
- 16 26-feet where 25-foot is the maximum. So that's
- here. So this is 26-feet long, it's a foot longer
- than the maximum 25-feet. We need a minimum depth
- 19 for the cars. These are the starts to the second
- 20 floor, and then that side elevation. Even though
- 21 the first floor is over 25-feet long, the second
- 22 floor, because of those dormers and the
- gable-shaped roof, steps in. So the second floor
- is more than conforming with that sidewall massing
- because on the plans, you can see you've got the

- dormer towards the front. Step back a few feet
- 2 from the left side of the garage and then a shed
- dormer across the back which is, again, stepped in
- 4 more than 2-feet from the sidewall of the garage.
- 5 So we're more than conforming with sidewall
- 6 massing on the second floor. It's just the first
- 7 floor that we're a foot longer than the 25-feet.
- 8 And again, there's a lot of screening and
- 9 landscaping along here for the neighbors' view and
- then, there're windows so there is some glass that
- 11 the neighbors are looking at.
- 12 I think I've addressed all the
- variances. Have you got any questions?
- 14 MR. MASCIALE: Question on the third
- 15 story. The only reason it's going from
- 16 two-and-a-half to three stories is for the amount
- of space that's being added on the third floor?
- 18 MR. BAILEY: Yes. The area that's
- 7-foot or higher is more than a third of the area
- 20 of the second floor.
- MR. MASCIALE: How much over is it?
- MR. BAILEY: The green shaded area
- that's 7-foot or higher above the attic floor,
- it's going to be 1,172-square feet which is 64.85%
- 25 of the second floor. So a third of the second

- 1 floor would be 602-square feet. So we wouldn't be
- 2 allowed without a variance for the 602-square feet
- 3 because that would be a third of the second floor.
- 4 We're proposing 1,172-square feet which is 64.86%
- of the second floor. Again, the massing of this
- 6 house fits in with the neighborhood. And the
- 7 Kings can address the purpose of those rooms.
- 8 But, yes, that is one of the variances we're
- 9 asking for and that is the story definition; the
- 10 green shaded area.
- 11 The blue shaded area is the FAR
- 12 living space. So we're discounting the one-third
- of the second floor. We've added 602-square feet
- 14 that adds into the FAR calculation, but we don't
- 15 have an issue with variance for FAR. Go to the
- 16 survey. The proposed FAR is 12.81% we're allowed
- 17 20%. So we're way under on living space. The
- 18 improvement coverage is existing nonconforming and
- we've actually reduced 167-square feet. On FAR,
- we're more than conforming. Building coverage,
- 21 we're conforming. Maximum building coverage is
- 22 10% were proposed 9.58%. You know as far as the
- building coverage and FAR, we're conforming. The
- story is because the area that's 7-foot or higher
- 25 is more than the area of the second floor. Again,

- 1 given this neighborhood and the size of the
- 2 property, I think it fits in. And then I have a
- diagram, a pretty clear scale diagram here.
- 4 They're both drawn to the same scale. This the
- 5 literally to the right adjacent property, 443
- 6 Hillside, and it's a much bigger house with a
- 7 pretty large flat roof area. And it also has an
- 8 open breezeway attached to an even larger carriage
- 9 house. It used to be the artist Harry Devlin's
- 10 studio that my clients renovated and fixed up. So
- 11 this is an 8,000-square foot house just to the
- 12 right, adjacent.
- MS. MOLNAR: That's in Mountainside?
- MR. BAILEY: Yes. The adjacent
- 15 property is in Mountainside.
- 16 MR. SONTZ: Mr. Bailey, why can't
- 17 you make the breezeway 16-inches smaller and not
- 18 have the side yard setback variance?
- MR. BAILEY: The 16-inches might not
- 20 be so much to make it a cave but it's is a nice
- 21 round number. And again, going back to the
- 22 elevations, they want the classic breezeway
- 23 carriage house look. So being non-enclosed, being
- open, at some point, it's going to feel too tight.
- 25 So I don't know exactly what inch that will be

- where it's going to feel too tight between two
- 2 buildings. But the 8-foot, I think is a good
- 3 proportion to be an open breezeway to walk
- 4 through. But if it's a condition of approval that
- 5 we take off one of the variances, the Kings might
- 6 testify they might be fine with that. But during
- 7 the design phase when I was discussing this with
- 8 the Kings, they thought 8-foot was a good opening
- 9 dimension to have as an open breezeway because
- 10 they don't want to enclose it. They'd like to
- 11 keep it open as a shortcut for pedestrians to walk
- 12 to the front yard and back yard and to get into
- 13 the mudroom.
- MR. SONTZ: What is the basis --
- 15 (Crosstalk.)
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Go ahead, Matt.
- MR. SONTZ: What is the basis for
- 18 your belief that the driveway is existing
- 19 nonconforming? When was the driveway put in?
- MR. BAILEY: I'm just going by the
- 21 existing survey. I don't know when anything was
- built. But you know given what I'm given, which
- is existing survey, which Jim Watson drew, so he
- 24 can testify about that also. But you know this is
- 25 -- these all-existing conditions, I don't know

- when things were put in. This is a 1960s house
- 2 that had an existing attached two-car garage
- 3 facing the side, so I could assume there would
- 4 have been a driveway with this. It looks
- original, it's like a 1960s style house. And I
- 6 know from working on some additions and work in
- 7 the past, that tennis court has been there a long
- 8 time. Mr. King can testify better about that.
- 9 But this is the existing site plan and these are
- 10 the existing numbers that show existing
- 11 nonconformance. Mr. King might testify markedly
- on how old things are, but nothing looks brand new
- 13 back there.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 15 Mr. Bailey. Some other board members had a
- 16 question for Mr. Bailey.
- MS. MOLNAR: I had two questions.
- 18 One is probably for Don. Is living space in the
- 19 attic permitted by the Land Use Ordinance?
- 20 MR. SAMMET: Yes. We see that very
- often. You'll see what was once attic storage
- space converted to living space. Very often
- 23 bedrooms and even baths.
- 24 MS. MOLNAR: Mr. -- the architect,
- 25 is it possible to design a usable third floor that

- is in compliance with the ordinance?
- 2 MR. BAILEY: That is a question for
- 3 the Kings on how small they'd like to have the
- 4 third floor. I designed the third floor that they
- 5 requested. And they were coached on what would
- 6 need a variance. So as far as what could be
- 7 smaller, that's more a question for the Kings.
- 8 MS. MOLNAR: Also, the pictures.
- 9 The first floor in the rear of the property, it
- 10 looks like it's an addition. It's bumped out.
- 11 The original home didn't have that bump-out.
- 12 Yeah, that looks like an addition. The house was
- 13 enlarged.
- MR. BAILEY: I don't know how long
- 15 ago. But the kitchen here, it's looks like it's
- 16 at least 20 or 30 years old.
- MS. MOLNAR: Yeah. My question is:
- 18 Can that bump out support a second and third story
- from a practical point of view?
- 20 MR. BAILEY: I'm not building over
- 21 it.
- MS. MOLNAR: Oh, you're not building
- over that; not at all. Okay. Okay. Thank you
- 24 for clarifying that. Okay. Thank you.
- 25 MR. BAILEY: See here's the -- so

- 1 here's the existing floor plan. So that part
- 2 you're looking at, the one-story, that's this
- 3 kitchen/family room area, and then this is the
- 4 existing second floor. So the proposed third
- floor is being built over the existing second
- floor. We're not building back here. So if I go
- 7 to the proposed plans you can see that too. You
- 8 see there's that one-story area?
- 9 MS. MOLNAR: Oh, yes. Thank you.
- 10 MR. BAILEY: And then the basement
- 11 plan. So I would assume that the original 60s
- house probably had this full basement and probably
- 13 an attached two-car garage. Someone in the past
- may have built these additions or built over crawl
- 15 spaces. Maybe the Kings can testify how old they
- 16 are. They're definitely not new. They look
- 17 pretty dated inside, especially the kitchen.
- MS. MOLNAR: Okay. Thank you.
- 19 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Mr. Bailey, thank
- 20 you. I see that the entire third floor has a
- ceiling height of 8-feet. Not on the improved
- area of the bedroom, sauna, bathroom, etcetera.
- 23 However, also the unfinished attic and unfinished
- 24 attic in the -- I'm sorry -- the finished attic
- 25 above the garage is also an 8-foot ceiling. Is

- 1 there any way to bring this down? I'm having a
- 2 very difficult time, you know, trying to approve
- 3 this application with one, two, three, four, five
- 4 variances where the permitted coverage is over
- 5 100% of what's allowed. 20% versus 41.48, I mean,
- 6 granted, you're reducing it a minimal amount, but
- 7 it's still a tremendous amount over what is
- 8 allowed. In addition -- bear with me here one
- 9 second -- as Mr. Sontz pointed out, the breezeway
- 10 at 8-feet, certainly by reducing it to 6-feet or
- 11 6-foot-6 would certainly help by eliminating one
- of those variances right off the bat. Again, we
- will bring the clients in-in a minute or so and
- 14 then get some testimony from them. And I
- 15 apologize, I probably should have had them start
- 16 off so we could have heard their reasoning behind
- 17 this relatively large ask.
- I'm concerned about the eave height.
- 19 You had mentioned in your testimony that you kept
- 20 referencing the dormer across the back at the eave
- 21 height of 26-feet. However, I'd like to confirm
- 22 that those three dormers in the front are also at
- 23 that 26-foot height. That eave height; is that
- 24 correct?
- 25 MR. BAILEY: It's that height, but

- 1 I'm sure Don Sammet will me or tell you also, but
- 2 he's told me in the past when they're small like
- and when they're less than 50% of the below them
- 4 he wavers that from counting the eave height. So
- 5 little dormers like this he doesn't normally count
- 6 towards eave height. The one across the back is
- 7 not exempt from eave height, so that is needing a
- 8 variance. The space in the backyard and it's a
- 9 very deep yard and there're no near neighbors
- 10 behind to even see it. But it's my understanding,
- 11 those little dormers are waived from that eave
- 12 height.
- MR. SAMMET: Yeah. The town has had
- 14 a long-standing rule of thumb well before I was on
- 15 staff about how it treats dormers when it comes to
- 16 what is measured for eave height.
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: So those dormers
- 18 are exempt even though they're at the same height
- 19 as --
- MR. SAMMET: Right.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: -- the rear?
- MR. SAMMET: Yeah.
- CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. Great.
- MR. BAILEY: Your question about
- 25 this attic here over this part. Going to a side

- 1 elevation. So I matched when I took the existing
- 2 roof off these two areas, I did the 10-12 pitch,
- 3 which is a good pitch for a colonial-style house.
- So this ridge is quite a bit lower than the one
- 5 where the third floor is. So going back to that
- 6 third-floor plan, 8-foot is to the bottom of the
- 7 ridge. So the 8-foot is to the high point, which
- 8 is the ridge. And the story definition from the
- 9 attic floor to the top of the structure, top of
- 10 the rafter, is this think blue area here. So this
- 11 is not really usable for living space because the
- 12 part that you can stand up in is pretty minimal.
- 13 That's just looking down on the second-floor room
- of the carriage house. So this is not on the
- 15 third floor, this attic space here. This is not
- 16 the same level as here. Going back to the
- 17 elevations, this is way lower than that. And this
- is only 8-foot, you know, the high point, and it's
- a steep pitch to reroof the house. So the steep
- 20 pitch is to look more like a traditional classical
- 21 center home than a 60s type house. But this is
- 22 not living space. It's only 8-foot high at the
- 23 high point from the attic floor.
- 24 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Something doesn't
- 25 make sense.

- 1 MR. BAILEY: We conform to the
- 2 maximum heights. So, yes, there are 8-foot
- 3 ceilings in the proposal, but we're okay with
- 4 maximum height and conform with that.
- 5 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. While
- 6 you're on that elevation, okay. To the left, the
- 7 area -- I'm talking about the garage building now
- 8 -- you have your first floor, which is the garage;
- 9 you have your second floor, which is finished
- 10 attic space with a stair leading up to that, and
- 11 then you have a third floor.
- MR. BAILEY: No. The way that plan
- was cut, this is -- there is no attic really above
- 14 this because you go back to side elevation.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Because I'm
- looking at your third-floor plan on A-7.
- 17 MR. BAILEY: Well, it's kind of
- 18 misleading because here on the side elevation --
- 19 so here's that ceiling of that second floor of the
- 20 carriage house, so you know, it's only like a
- 21 3-foot attic. So, yes, it's an attic, maybe
- 3-foot maximum. Not like this one here which was
- 23 8-foot underneath the ridge beam. This unfinished
- 24 area here was 8-foot to the high point. And this
- 25 is over the main part of the house where you have

- 1 an 8-foot ceiling here in the finished part and
- 2 then a little bit of like a 3- or 4-foot attic
- 3 above that, but not an attic you would walk up in.
- 4 And the same here, this whatever attic there is
- 5 over this flat ceiling of the second floor of the
- 6 carriage house is nothing you can walk into.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: The reason I
- 8 brought it up is A-5 shows a two-car garage,
- 9 proposed first-floor plan; A-6 proposed
- 10 second-floor plan shows finished attic, ceiling
- 11 8-feet, and page A-7 says proposed third-floor
- 12 plan and it also says above the garage, finished
- 13 attic.
- 14 MR. BAILEY: I kind of cut through
- 15 the ridge there, but it's another attic. You're
- 16 looking down into the finished attic. So it's
- 17 like, you know, you cut away part of the ridge
- 18 because just where the plan section was taken,
- it's looking down into that room on the second
- 20 floor. So, yeah, it probably should have just
- 21 been a solid roof.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. No
- 23 problem. That's fine. Thank you so much.
- MR. BAILEY: It's not a walk-up
- 25 attic over here. It's really just a two-story

- 1 addition. In fact, the height of that is only
- 2 21-foot-10. So you're not going to get three
- 3 stories on 21-foot-10.
- 4 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Correct. Great.
- 5 Thank you. Unless anyone else has any questions
- for Mr. Bailey at this point I'd like to bring in
- 7 the applicants so we can hear some of their
- 8 justification.
- 9 MR. SONTZ: Mr. Chairman, if I may,
- 10 we kind of broke our own rule of not starting an
- application after 11:00, and then you mentioned,
- we'll, we'll get a quick start. It's already past
- 13 11:30, I don't think we should start any more
- 14 witnesses today. I think we should adjourn.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. Chris, what
- 16 do you think?
- MR. MASCIALE: Did you ask the
- public about Mr. Bailey? And then maybe we should
- 19 pack it in.
- 20 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. Mr. Bailey,
- 21 let's see if there's any -- and thanks, Matt, for
- 22 bringing that to my attention. I just wanted to
- 23 try to hear from the applicants. We'll certainly
- hear from them as we continue. Is there anyone
- 25 from the audience -- and if you are out there, I

- 1 appreciate you staying with us at this late hour
- 2 -- is there anyone from the audience that has any
- 3 questions for the architect, Mr. Bailey, please
- 4 raise your hand at this point virtually and Mr.
- 5 Sammet will allow you in.
- 6 MR. SAMMET: Anyone with questions
- of Mr. Bailey? There's no one, Mr. Chairman.
- 8 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 9 Mr. Sammet.
- MR. MASCIALE: Why don't you swear
- 11 the applicants in and just get a quick statement
- 12 Frank, and then we can adjourn?
- 13 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah. If you
- don't mind, Matt, I'd just like to hear maybe five
- minutes of what they have to say, and then we'll
- 16 cap it at that. Are the applicants available? If
- 17 you can stop sharing your screen, Mr. Bailey,
- 18 perhaps we'll be able to see them there. There we
- 19 go. Thank you so much. Mr. Kind, can you unmute
- 20 yourself?
- MS. MOLNAR: He went to sleep.
- 22 MS. RAZIN: He also needs to come
- onto the screen. Mr. King, you also need to be
- visible when we swear you in.
- MR. KING: Okay. How's this?

- 1 MS. RAZIN: Thank you.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: There you go. We
- 3 can see you and hear you, Mr. King. Thank you.
- 4 Can you please state your name and address for the
- 5 record?
- 6 MR. KING: Mike King, 437 Hillside
- 7 Avenue, Westfield.
- 8 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you. Please
- 9 raise your right hand.
- 10 MICHAEL KING, having been duly
- 11 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:
- 12 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 13 Mr. King. It's a late hour, thank you for hanging
- in there with us. If you could please just give
- 15 us a brief overview of your project, your input as
- to what you've heard so far, and then we will
- 17 continue the application at our next meeting since
- we are approaching 11:40 in the evening.
- MR. KING: Sure. Well, thank you.
- I can't believe you all are still here. Thank
- 21 you. Well, I guess I'll try to keep it very
- 22 brief. This started with something very
- 23 practical. We never had a laundry room. My wife
- 24 -- we've been here 20 years; my wife has always
- 25 wanted to have a laundry room. We've got a washer

- 1 and dryer in a closet in the kitchen. And then we
- thought, well, maybe we can convert the garage,
- 3 and we went down that path. And I don't really
- 4 have a place to work here. I'd like a study, and
- 5 I could use one. So we thought, well, we can put
- that in what's now a garage. So then we started
- 7 thinking along the lines of, well, if we do this,
- 8 how are we going to do this in a way that it fits
- 9 in our neighborhood. I guess Mr. Watson will tell
- 10 you that our house is the smallest house around
- 11 here. Our square footage is about 4,000-square
- 12 feet. Across the street and right next to us on
- one side is more than 50% larger than that, and
- 14 then on the other side, it's twice as large as
- 15 ours. At the same time, we have among the largest
- 16 properties on our street. In any case, we wanted
- to do it in a way that it would enhance the curb
- appeal of our house and make it better.
- As I said, we've lived here about 20
- years. We've never done anything substantial to
- 21 the house. But we came to this point and thought
- 22 we want to live here for a good number more years
- and maybe we should do it now. And so, that is
- how the detached garage idea was hatched. And,
- 25 you know, again, it was to give us the space that

```
we wanted to get the garage out of our house
1
      because, right now, the garage is right next to
 2
 3
      our kitchen and dining room. I mean it's in the
      house and our bedroom is sitting on top of it, and
 5
      we didn't think that was ideal. And David showed
 6
      us a way to do it where it would fit in our
7
      neighborhood, the way, the look of the other
 8
      houses in our neighborhood, and give our house a
 9
      scale from the street that's more comparable to
10
      what you would see if you walked down our street.
                   And then, again, these started out
11
12
      as very practical considerations. The attic -- we
13
      have an attic. We can get to it, but we have to
14
      go up and down a ladder. And if you do get up
15
      there with a box then, well, you better be careful
16
      because you're probably going to bump your head.
17
      And we're not young anymore and it's not easy to
18
      go up and down that ladder. So we thought, well,
19
      what would we do up there, and if we do it, how
20
      would we do it in a way that made our house better
21
      within the context of our neighbors and within you
22
      know something that would give us what we wanted
      but also fit in better in our neighborhood. And
23
```

so, David helped us with that. And David said we

(technical interference) you know, he said we've

24

25

- got a spa, and that's kind of flattering to me,
- 2 but it's not -- I mean we do want to have a sauna
- 3 up there. And again, it gets back to a very
- 4 practical thing. I know this is on the public
- 5 record but I've got really high blood pressure and
- 6 getting in that sauna every day, which now I have
- 7 to go somewhere to do that -- but it keeps me from
- 8 having to take as much medicine as I would have
- 9 to. And so, we want to have it and have a bedroom
- 10 up there.
- 11 You might have figured out that I
- didn't grow up around here. We don't have family
- 13 up here, but we have big families and they come to
- 14 visit us, and we want to have you know space to
- 15 put them up when they come to visit us, which they
- 16 do. And so when we started looking at how do we
- deal with the attic and having stairs to go up to
- 18 the attic and be able to use it in a way we would
- 19 like to use it. David helped us with that.
- 20 Again, not just so could get what we wanted out of
- 21 it but to make it fit in with the houses around
- 22 us. And the houses around us; they have steep
- 23 roofs. Our roof is low. It is noticeably -- the
- 24 pitch of our roof is noticeably lower than the
- 25 other roofs and we know that. And we know that

- 1 other people have finished space up there, but we
- 2 really -- practically we can't do much up there
- 3 without having a higher-pitched roof is what it
- 4 comes down to. And if you're going to have stairs
- 5 to go up there and finish the space, well, you
- 6 want to have light come in there. And so that's
- 7 where the dormers come in. I guess that's about
- 8 all I would say.
- 9 The only other thing I would say is
- 10 that David, I didn't know we were reducing our
- 11 impervious space. I'm glad to hear that. But I
- 12 knew that we weren't going to make it larger. You
- 13 know we've got a tennis court back there and I
- 14 guess you all would consider that impervious. But
- the reality is that it's the opposite of
- 16 impervious. It's a clay court and it, in fact,
- it's like all-natural material and it's layer
- 18 after layer of progressively larger stones going
- down about 3-feet. And it's basically a drainage
- 20 system that you can play a sport on top of it.
- 21 And that's just the reality.
- 22 And we -- the other thing that was
- important to us was the environment around our
- 24 house. If you came here you'd see in the spring
- 25 it's like a combination of a bird sanctuary and an

- 1 arboretum. I mean we have probably 100 different
- 2 species of plants, many dozens of trees;
- 3 hardwoods, fruit trees, evergreen. And we spend
- 4 quite a lot of time keeping it like that. Even
- 5 the tennis court fence, we've turned into a garden
- of flowering vines. It's got hydrangeas,
- 7 wisterias, honeysuckle, two varieties of
- 8 grapevines that produce growing on it. And so
- 9 it's important to keep our property looking very
- 10 natural. And we want to do something that makes
- 11 it the way we want it to be for us to live in the
- rest of the time we live here, but also in a way
- 13 that the neighbors would appreciate. And we've
- 14 talked to our neighbor, our next-door neighbors,
- and I can promise you that they'll be delighted
- that we would do something to our house. We've
- waited 20 years and we'll be the last ones around
- here to do anything to this house if you all --
- and I want to do things to our house if you let
- 20 us. Our neighbors, they've already done their
- improvements and we'd like to step up if we have
- the chance. That's all.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you,
- 24 Mr. King. I've got to tell you; we hear a lot of
- 25 stories and a lot of testimony here, but I've

- 1 never heard anyone say that we started out with
- 2 adding and we wanted a laundry room in our house
- 3 and now we have five variances to build that
- 4 laundry room. That's a new one.
- 5 (Laughter.)
- 6 MR. KING: Well, I hope I have your
- 7 sympathy. It's like pulling a thread on a
- 8 sweater, and I just kept pulling it and pretty
- 9 soon, there's won't be a sweater.
- 10 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I've got to tell
- 11 you, it would be a lot cheaper to buy a washing
- 12 machine/dryer and put it in a closet.
- MR. KING: I'll just go to the
- 14 Laundromat.
- 15 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you very
- 16 much for your time. We'll continue the
- 17 application. You will be first up I believe at
- our meeting in April. I believe it's April 11,
- 19 and it will be in person.
- MR. KING: By the way, if you could
- 21 push me until May just because I'll be in
- 22 California on April 11.
- 23 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: That would be
- 24 fine.
- MR. KING: I'm not in any kind of --

- 1 it's not anything urgent for me. Would that be
- 2 okay if I attended in May?
- MR. SAMMET: Yeah.
- 4 MS. RAZIN: Absolutely. Our May
- 5 meeting is --
- 6 MR. SAMMET: I'm looking it up now.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: The 9th. May the
- 8 9th.
- 9 MS. RAZIN: Mr. King, your
- 10 application will be carried without notice to
- 11 May 9, as of now.
- MR. KING: Okay. May 9 at 7:30,
- 13 I'll be there.
- 14 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: In person.
- MS. RAZIN: In person.
- MR. KING: Yes, I'll be there
- in-person.
- 18 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 19 Mr. Watson, thank you. We'll see you next time.
- MS. HROBLAK: Before we adjourn, I
- 21 have a question.
- 22 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes, Allyson. Go
- ahead.
- MS. HROBLAK: The applicant had
- 25 mentioned the clay courts have some sort of

- 1 subsurface --
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Drainage system,
- 3 yes.
- 4 MS. HROBLAK: Yes. And I'm
- 5 wondering if anybody can collect that information.
- 6 It may be on some old design plans.
- 7 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah. Perhaps
- 8 Mr. Watson can elaborate.
- 9 MS. HROBLAK: Perhaps even available
- 10 by doing a shallow hand-done test pit to see what
- 11 the profile below the clay court.
- MR. KING: Certainly. I think I
- have something on it from when it was built. It's
- been there let's say -- it's been there at least
- 15 20 years.
- 16 MS. HROBLAK: If you have design
- 17 plans from that, that would be perfect.
- 18 MR. KING: I'm sorry -- 20 -- I've
- been here 20. It's been there at least 40 years,
- and I think maybe 50 or 60. The people who owned
- 21 this house, and Bill Smith who lives a couple
- doors down, they had tennis courts put in at the
- same time, and I think that was 40 or 50 years
- 24 ago. And I think I might have some paperwork on
- 25 it to show you.

- 1 MS. HROBLAK: That would be great if
- 2 you could get that to us.
- 3 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: If you could bring
- 4 that, that would be great.
- 5 MR. KING: Certainly.
- 6 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much.
- 7 Have a great evening.
- 8 MR. MASCIALE: I'll make a motion to
- 9 adjourn.
- 10 MR. REISEN: I second it.
- 11 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Everyone in favor,
- 12 aye.
- BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.
- MR. SAMMET: Can you hold on a
- 15 second, Frank?
- 16 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yes, Don.
- 17 MR. SAMMET: Mr. Laczynski has
- already written to the mayor expressing his
- 19 displeasure. So the mayor wrote to you and I,
- 20 Frank.
- 21 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Okay. No problem.
- 22 Last time I checked, the council meetings ended
- 23 way before. But I will address it tomorrow. I'll
- give you a call in the morning. Is that okay?
- 25 (Crosstalk.)

- 1 MR. SAMMET: I'm sorry, Frank.
- 2 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: I'll give you a
- 3 call in the morning, and then if need be, we'll
- 4 get on a conference call with Shelley.
- 5 MR. SAMMET: Yeah, if you want.
- MS. MOLNAR: We can't do hybrid
- 7 though; right?
- 8 MR. SAMMET: Yeah. The gentleman is
- 9 upset that we don't have that option, number one.
- 10 And number two, that the meeting is the week of
- 11 spring break. He's very upset.
- MS. HROBLAK: Does he have to be at
- 13 the meeting?
- MR. SAMMET: Yes.
- 15 MR. MASCIALE: Does he know we had a
- 16 meeting on Valentine's Day?
- 17 CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Yeah, exactly. My
- 18 wife expressed displeasure with that. It was my
- 19 anniversary in my head.
- MR. MASCIALE: The only meetings --
- MR. SAMMET: Hold on. Hold on.
- Hold on.
- 23 MR. MASCIALE: We're still
- 24 recording.
- 25 MR. SAMMET: Yeah. We're still

```
1
     live.
2
                  MS. RAZIN: Right. I was going to
3
      say --
                   MR. SAMMET: We're still live.
5
      Yeah.
                   MS. RAZIN: Do you want to discuss
     it offline? I don't know.
7
8
                   MR. SAMMET: Right. We'll discuss
9
      it offline.
10
                   MS. RAZIN: If you need me for any
11
     part of it, you let me know.
12
                   MS. HROBLAK: It's 11:51 now.
13
                   CHAIRMAN FUSARO: Thank you so much,
     everyone. Have a great evening. Safe travel home
14
15
      for everyone who is at their office.
16
17
                   (The meeting was adjourned at
18
                   11:51 p.m.)
19
20
21
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25
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